

Boise State University

ScholarWorks

The Idea of Nature Public Lecture Series

Interdisciplinary Explorations

3-18-2020

Idaho First: How Archaeological Discoveries on the Lower Salmon River Change Our Perspectives on the Peopling of the Americas (Slides)

Loren Davis
Oregon State University

Idaho First: How Archaeological Discoveries in the Lower Salmon River Change our Perspectives on the Peopling of the Americas

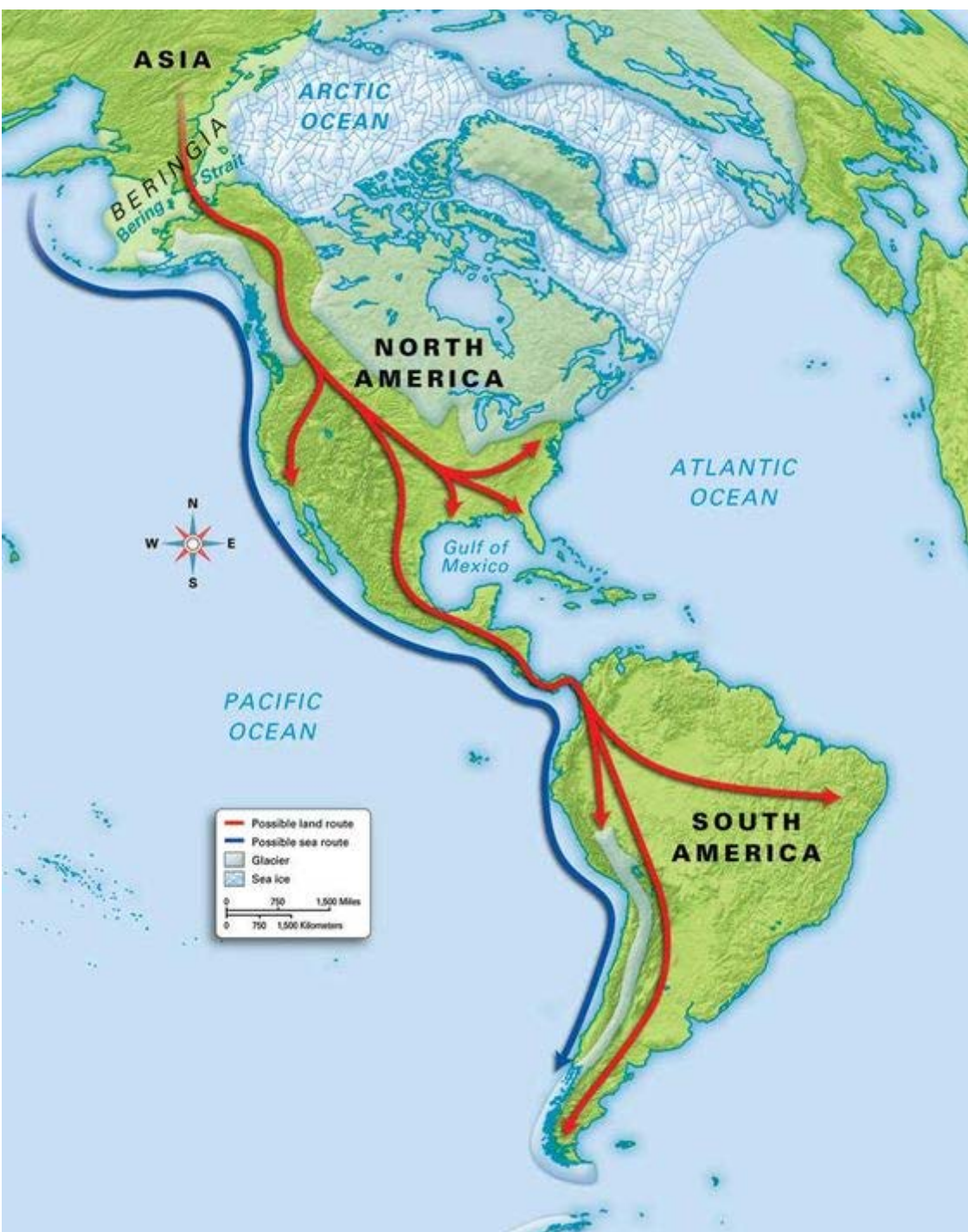
Loren G. Davis, PhD
Oregon State University



ARCHAEOLOGY

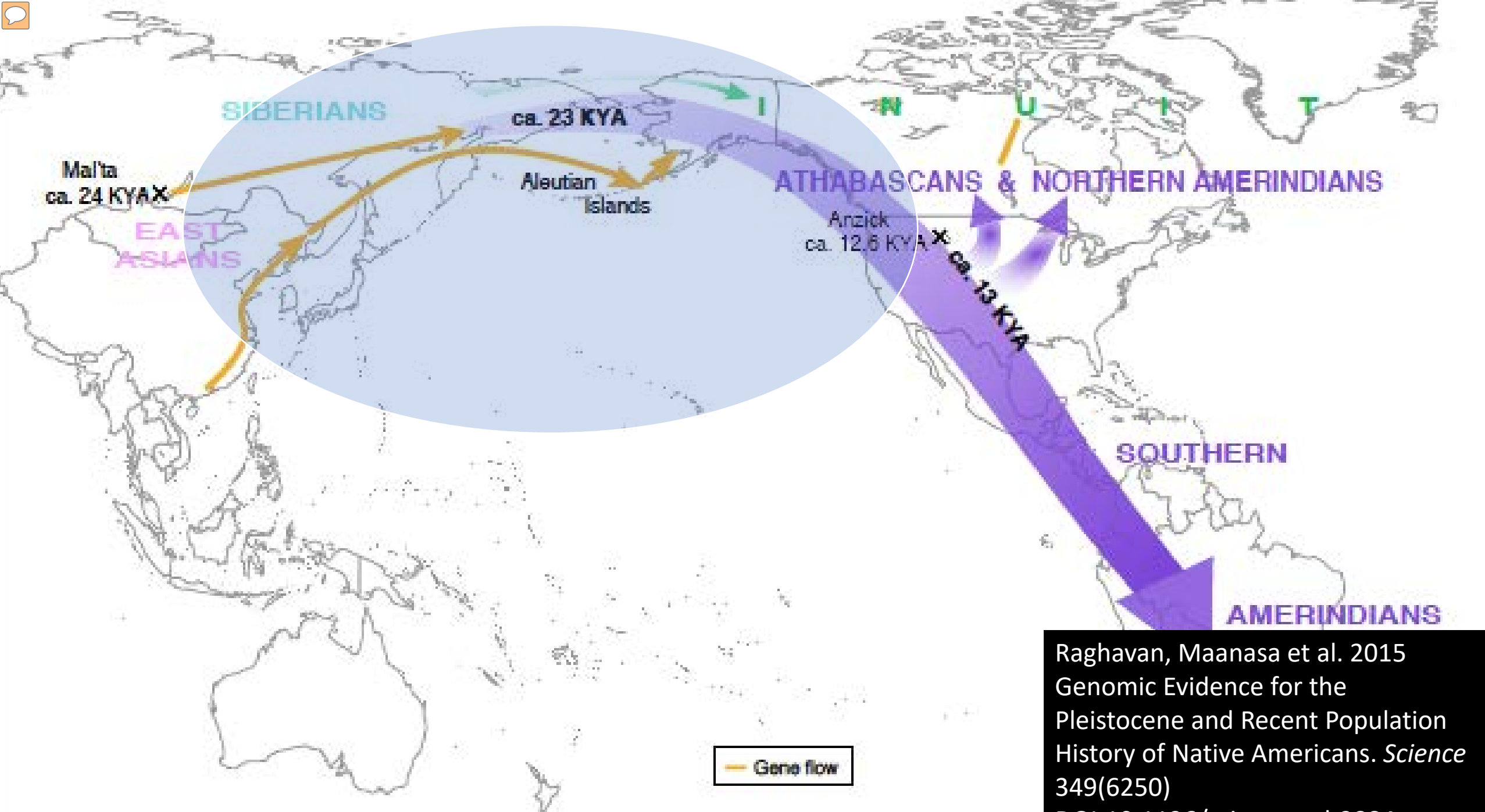
Late Upper Paleolithic occupation at Cooper's Ferry, Idaho, USA, ~16,000 years ago

Loren G. Davis^{1*}, David B. Madsen², Lorena Becerra-Valdivia³, Thomas Higham³,
David A. Sisson⁴, Sarah M. Skinner¹, Daniel Stueber⁵, Alexander J. Nyers⁶,
Amanda Keen-Zebert⁷, Christina Neudorf⁷, Melissa Cheyney¹, Masami Izuho⁸,
Fumie Iizuka^{8,9}, Samuel R. Burns¹, Clinton W. Epps¹⁰, Samuel C. Willis¹¹, Ian Buvit¹



What does it all mean?





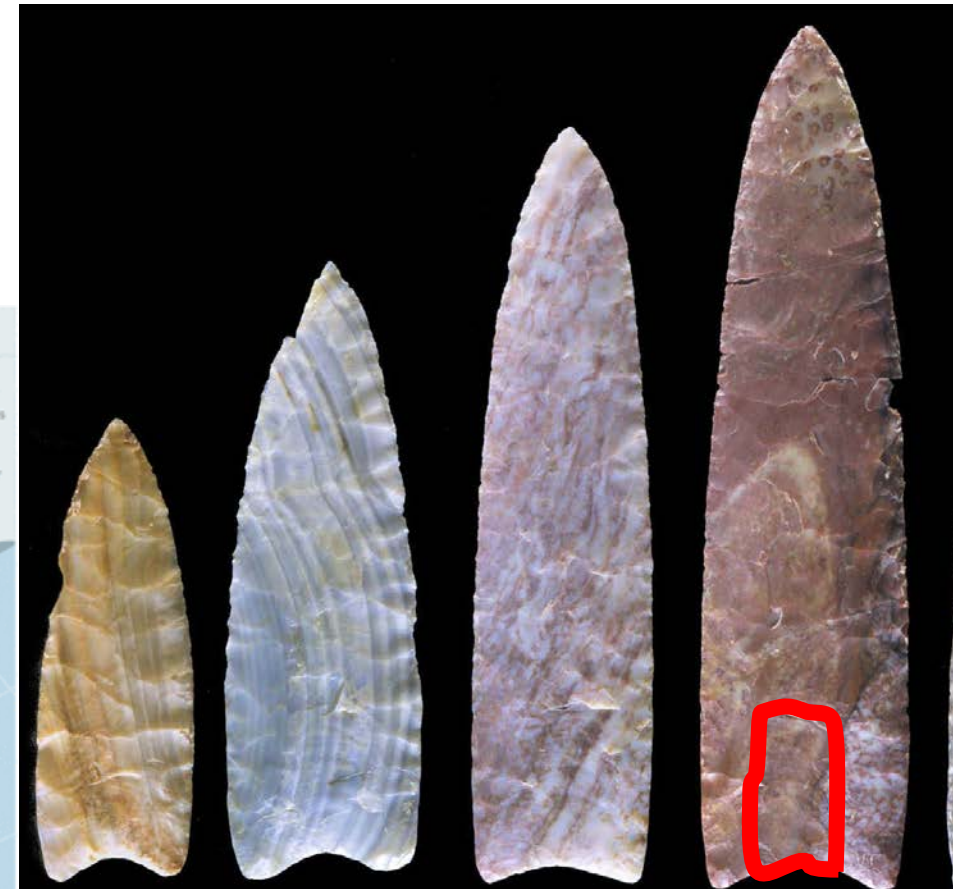
Raghavan, Maanasa et al. 2015
Genomic Evidence for the
Pleistocene and Recent Population
History of Native Americans. *Science*
349(6250)
DOI:10.1126/science.aab3884.

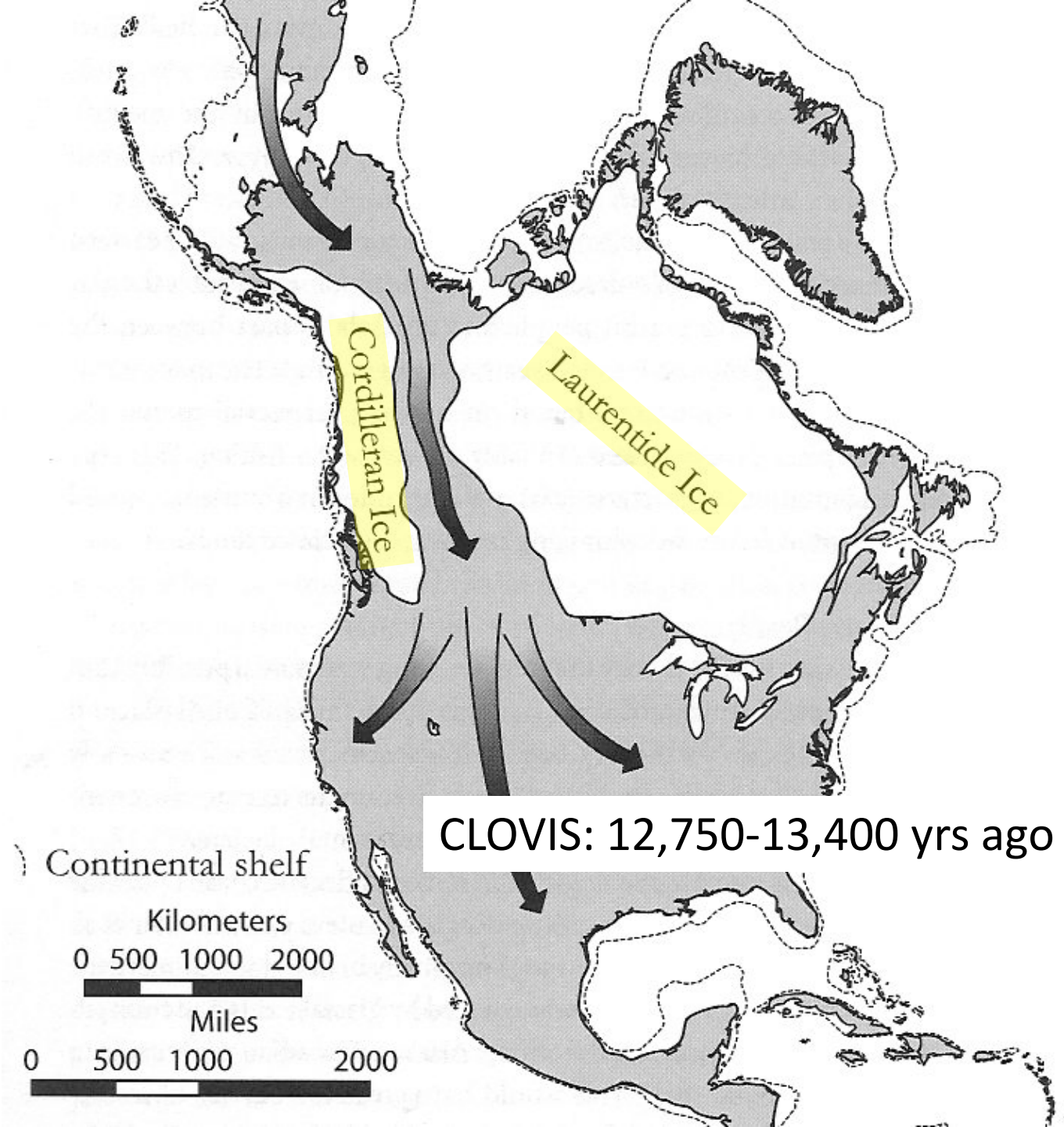
Peopling of the Americas Debate

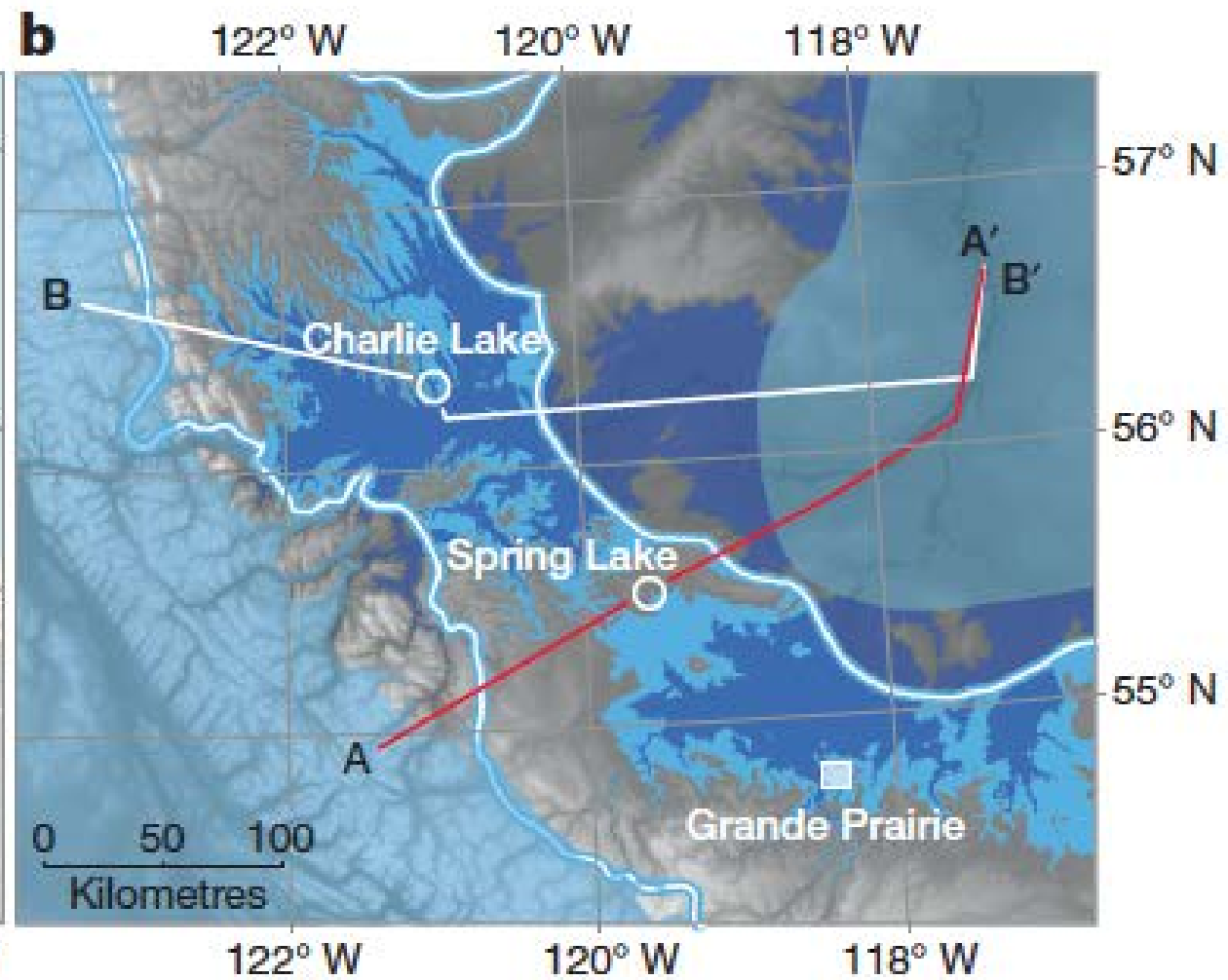
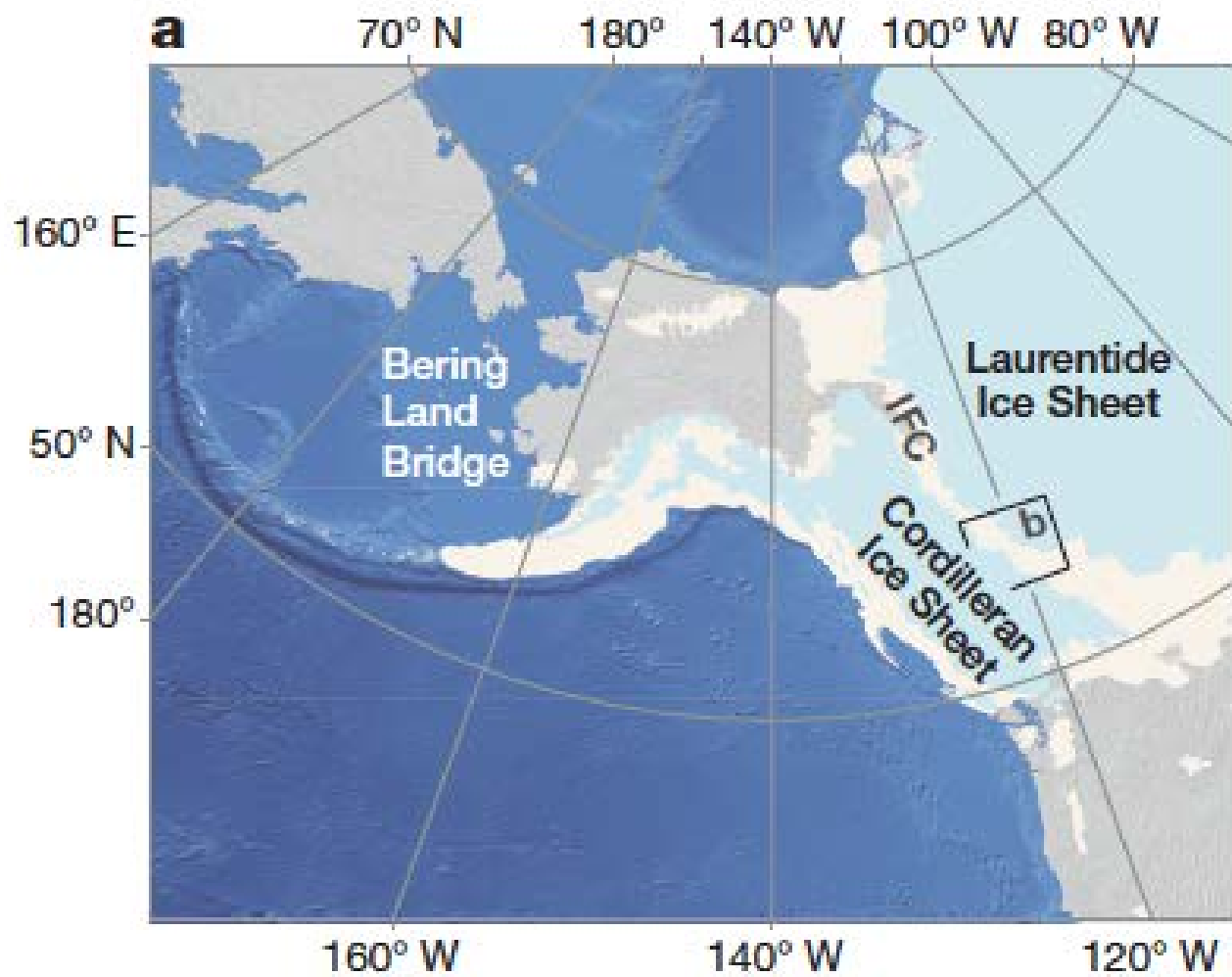
- **Traditional model (Clovis First)**

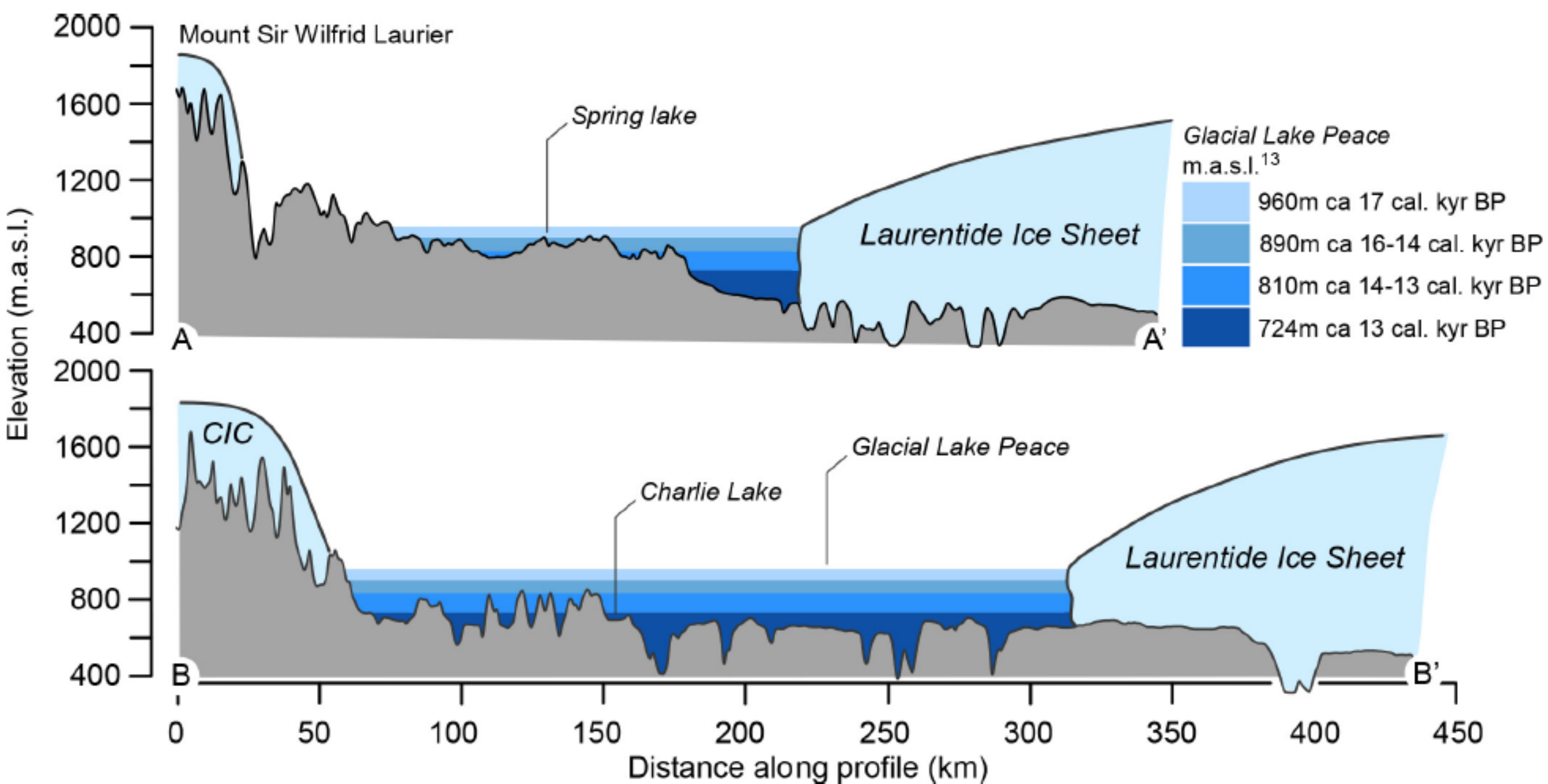
- Initial migration from NE Asia at high latitudes
- Upper Paleolithic peoples occupy eastern Beringia and move south via interior route
- Clovis Paleoindian Tradition appears after 13,300 years ago

CLOVIS PALEOINDIAN FLUTED SPEARPOINTS

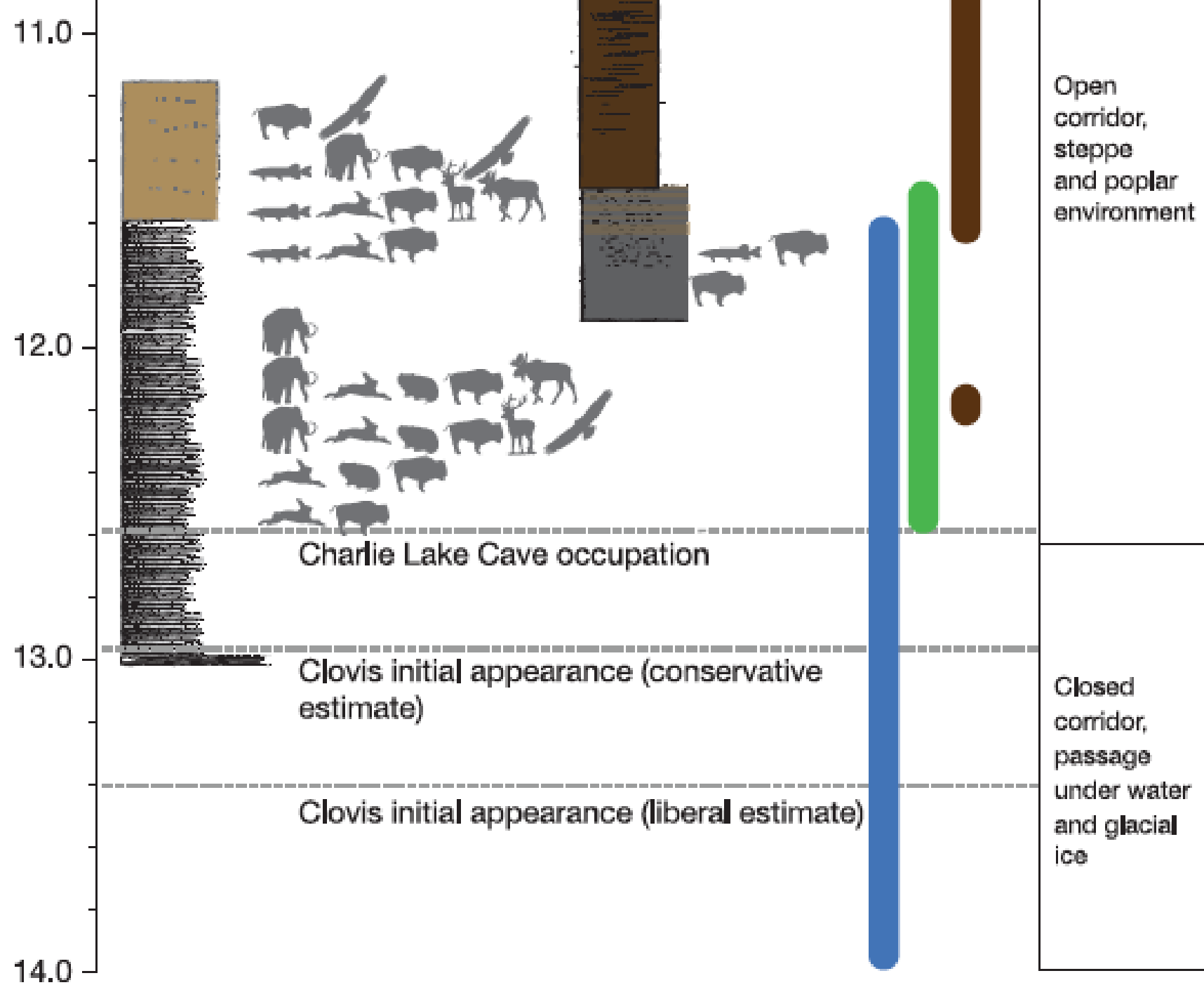




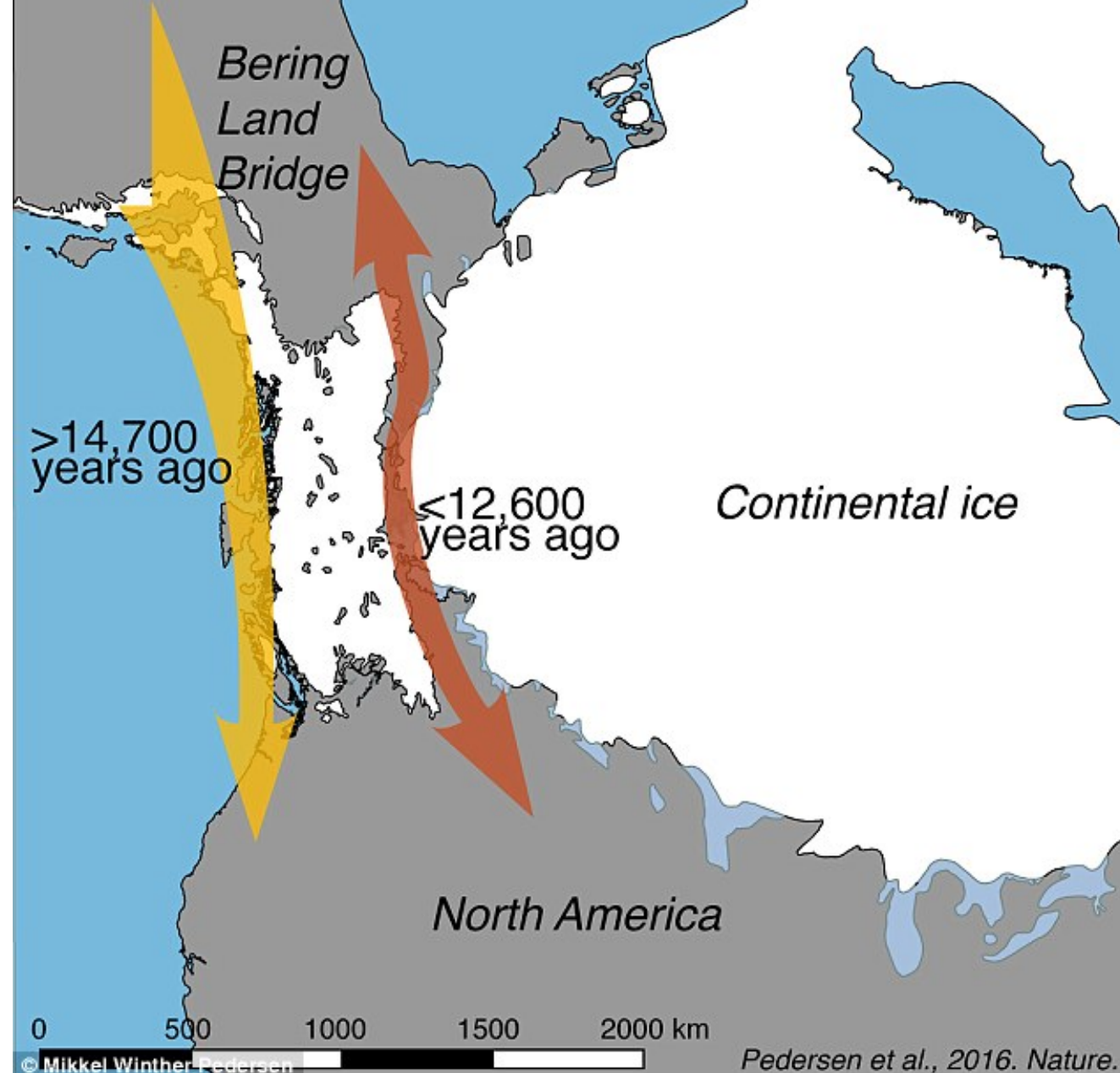


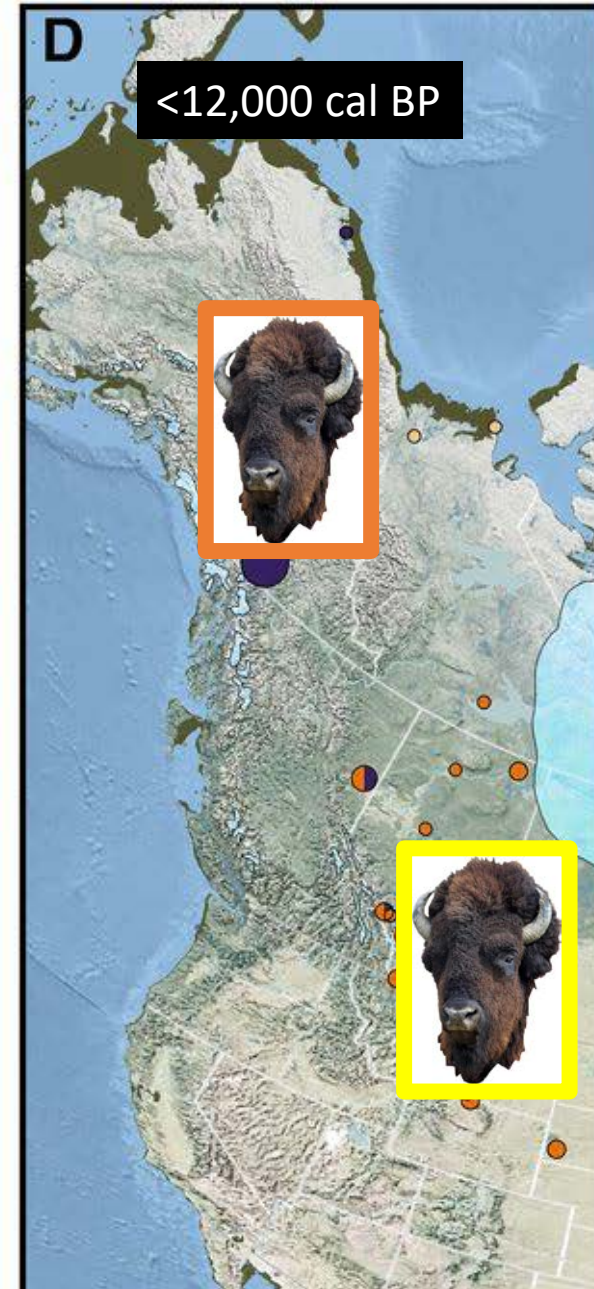
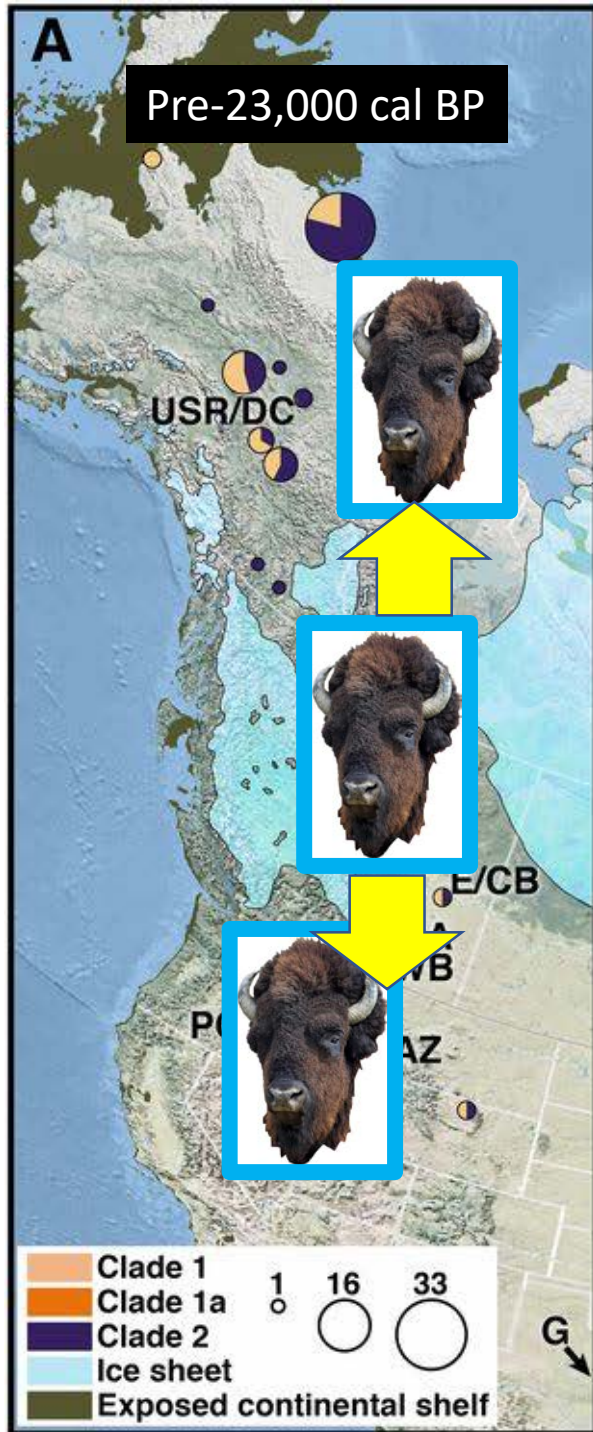


Extended Data Figure 1 | Topographic transects. The red and white lines on Fig. 1b mark topographic transects of Charlie Lake and Spring Lake in relation to the four phases of Glacial Lake Peace¹³. CIC, Cordilleran ice complex; m.a.s.l., metres above sea level.

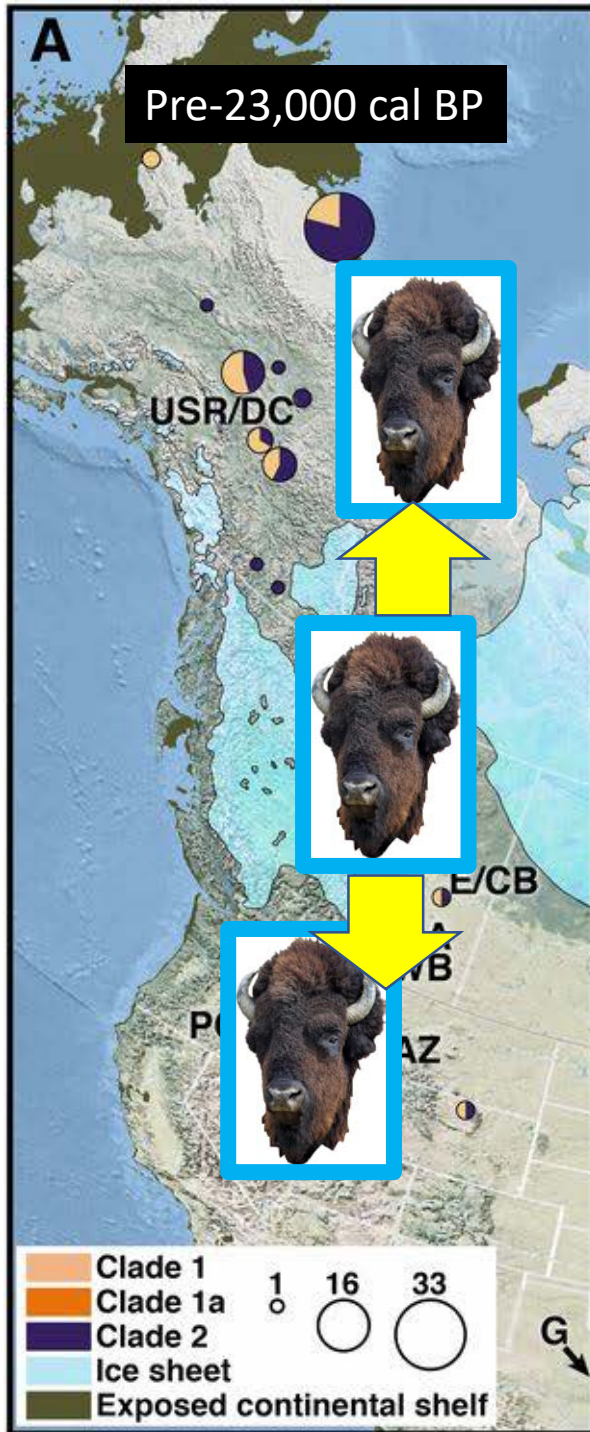


Opening of human migration routes in North America

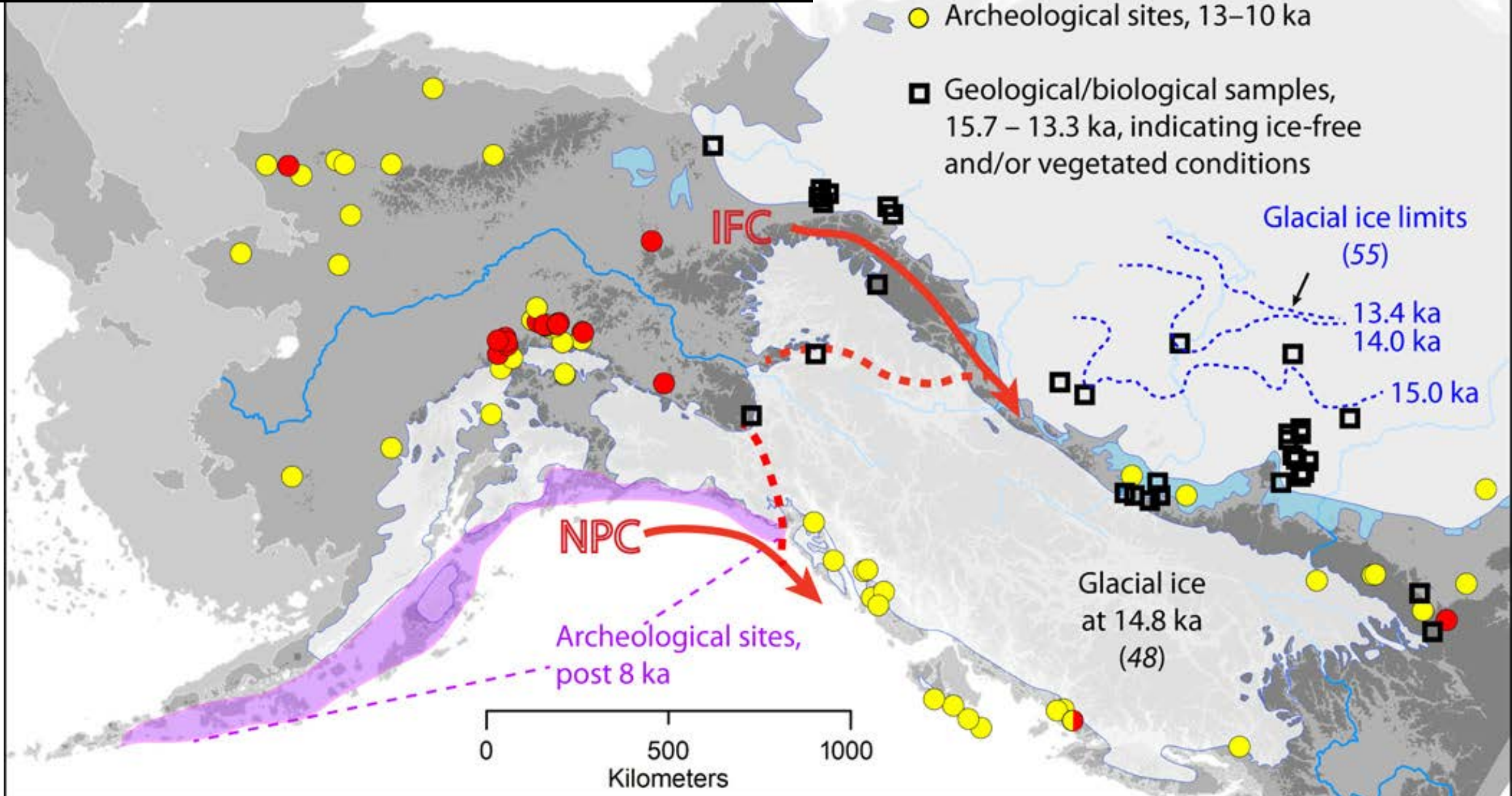




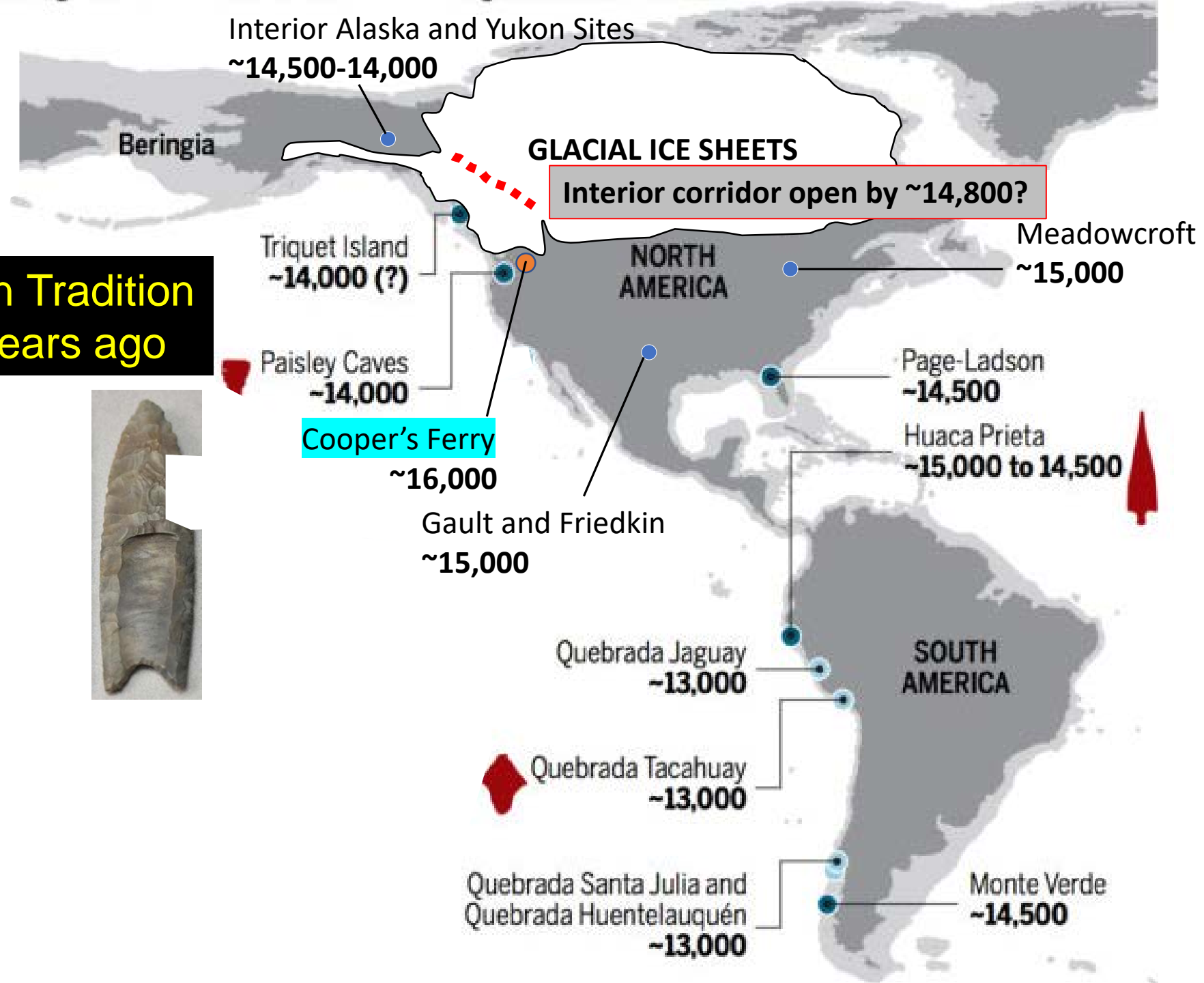
Heintzman et al. 2016 Bison phylogeography constrains dispersal and viability of the Ice Free Corridor in western Canada. *PNAS* July 19, 2016 113 (29) 8057-8063



The corridor was closed after ~23,000 until 13,400 years ago. By 13,400 years ago, bison used this route to disperse from the south and by 13,000 years ago bison come down from the north.



**Clovis Paleoindian Tradition
~13,400-12,750 years ago**



What if an interior corridor was open by ~14,800 years ago?



- We should find sites dating to 14,800 years ago and younger south of the continental ice sheets and oldest sites should be in the Interior Corridor
- If Clovis people used this earlier Interior Corridor, then we might find even earlier Clovis sites there or south of the ice
- This would keep the Clovis First model alive...
- Excavations at the Gault (and Friedkin) Site in Texas have uncovered cultural materials **below a well-defined Clovis layer**
- What did these “Older Than Clovis” artifacts look like?
- Are they proto-Clovis technologies?

Gault Site, TX



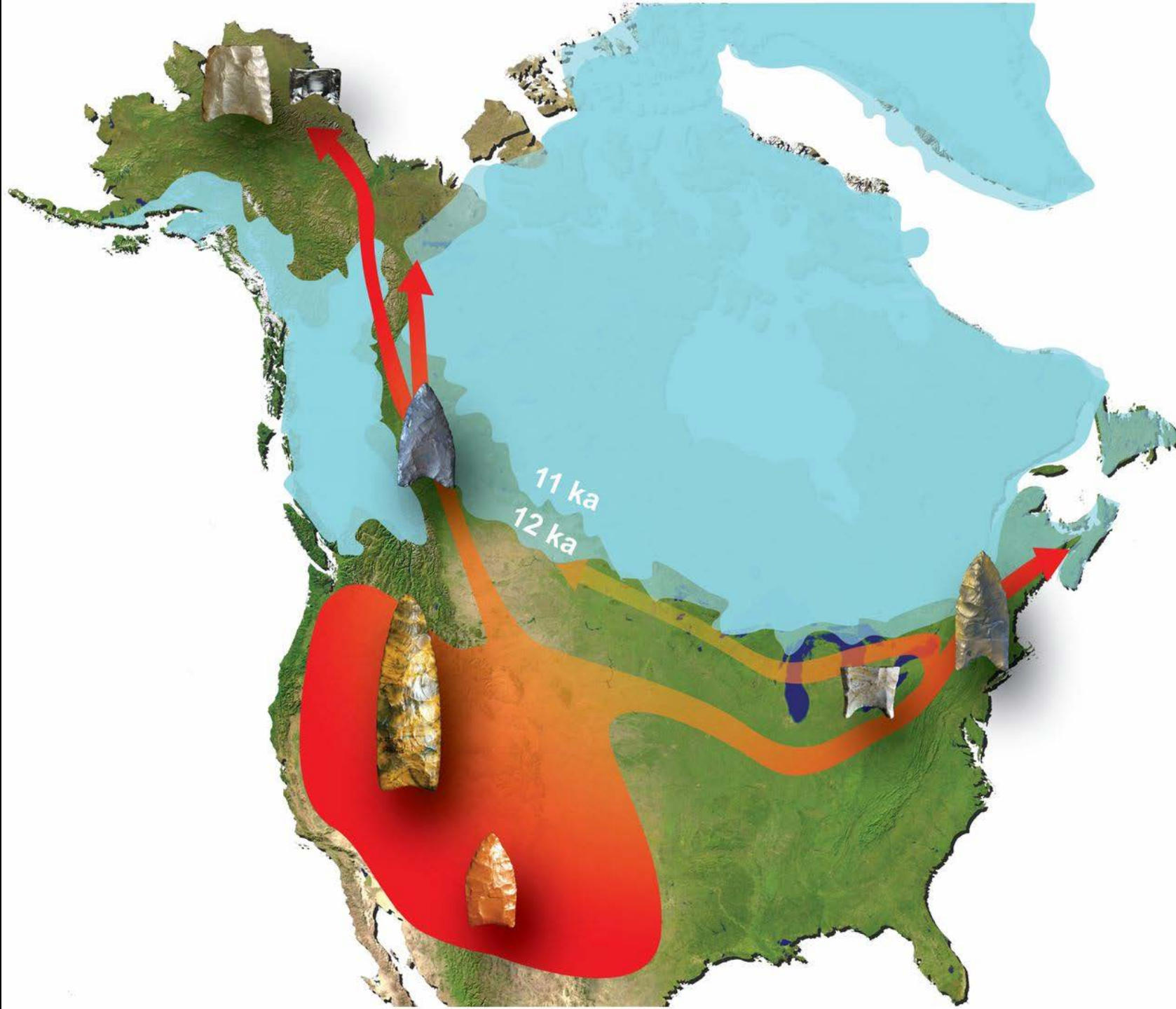
2 cm



~15,000 years old

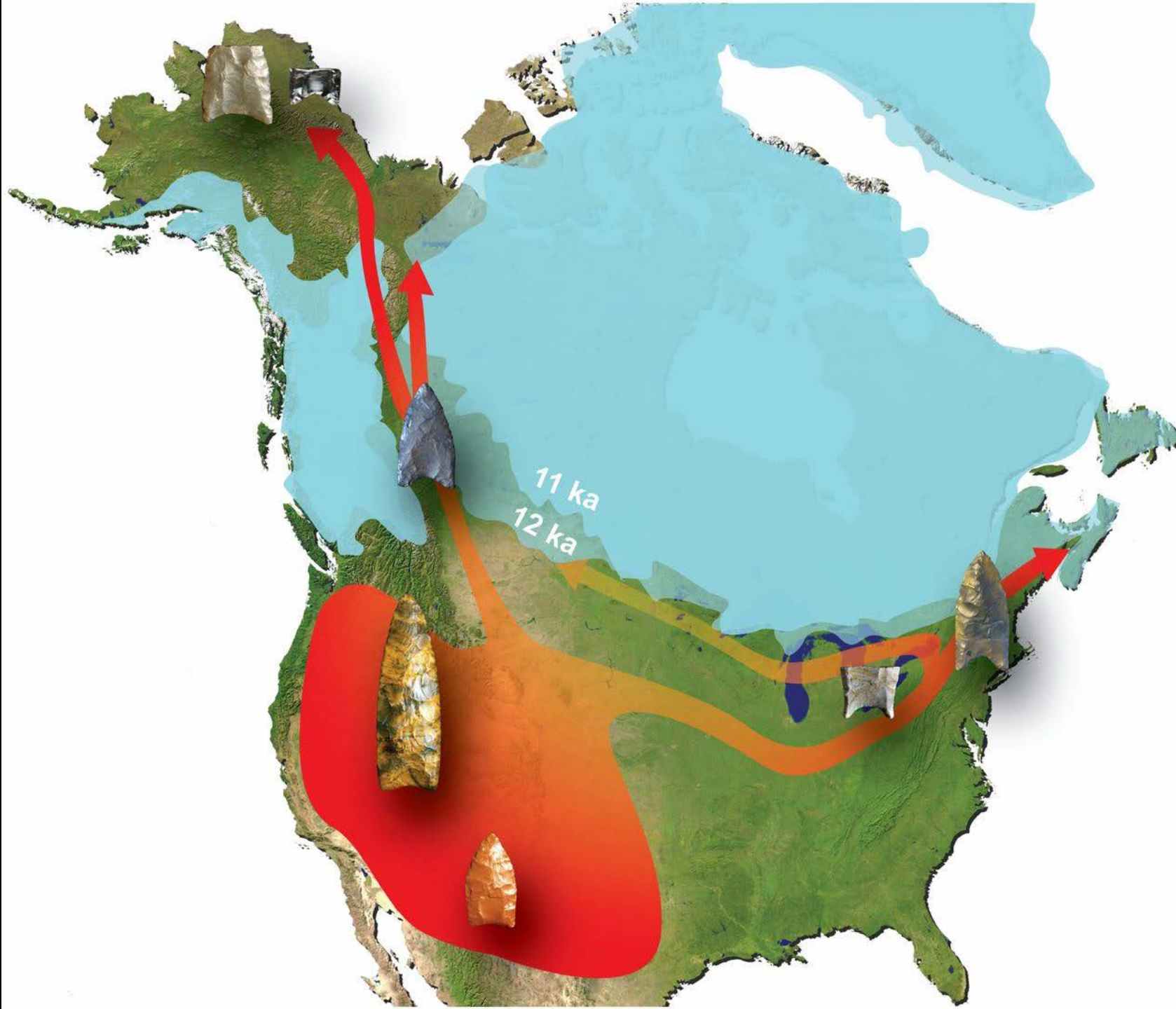
Friedkin Site, TX





**Just when you
thought you knew
what was going
on...**

***Clovis points date
older in the south
and youngest in
Alaska***



Just when you thought you knew what was going on...

Clovis points date older in the south and youngest in Alaska

CLOVIS IS NOT FIRST...We need another model

LOWER SALMON RIVER CANYON, IDAHO





AREA A

6 x 12 m

2014 Expansion

AREA B

6 x 6 m

12 x 12 m





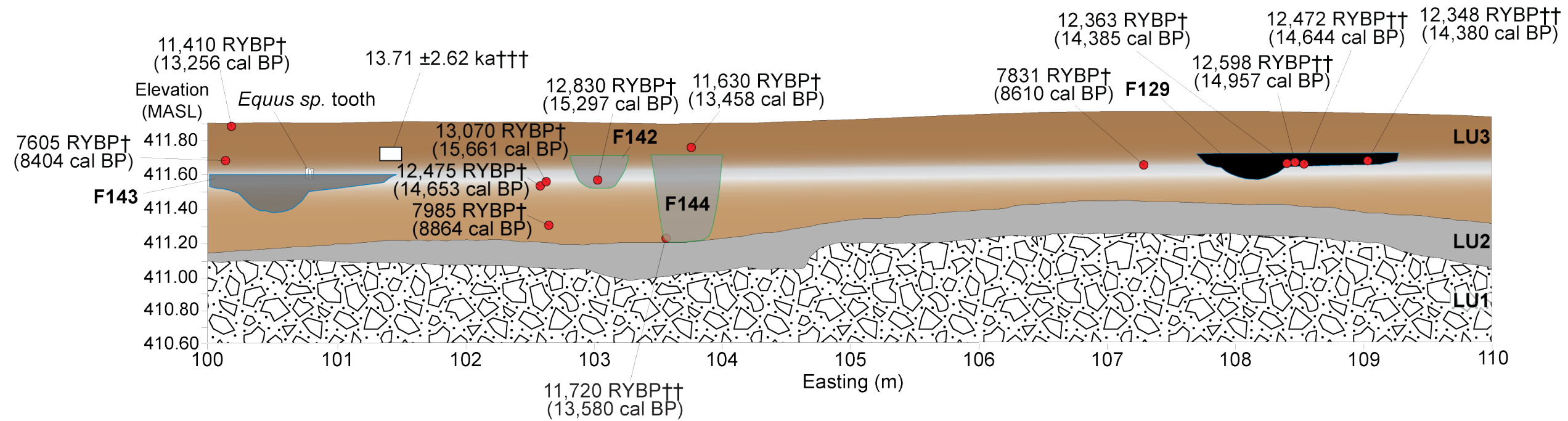


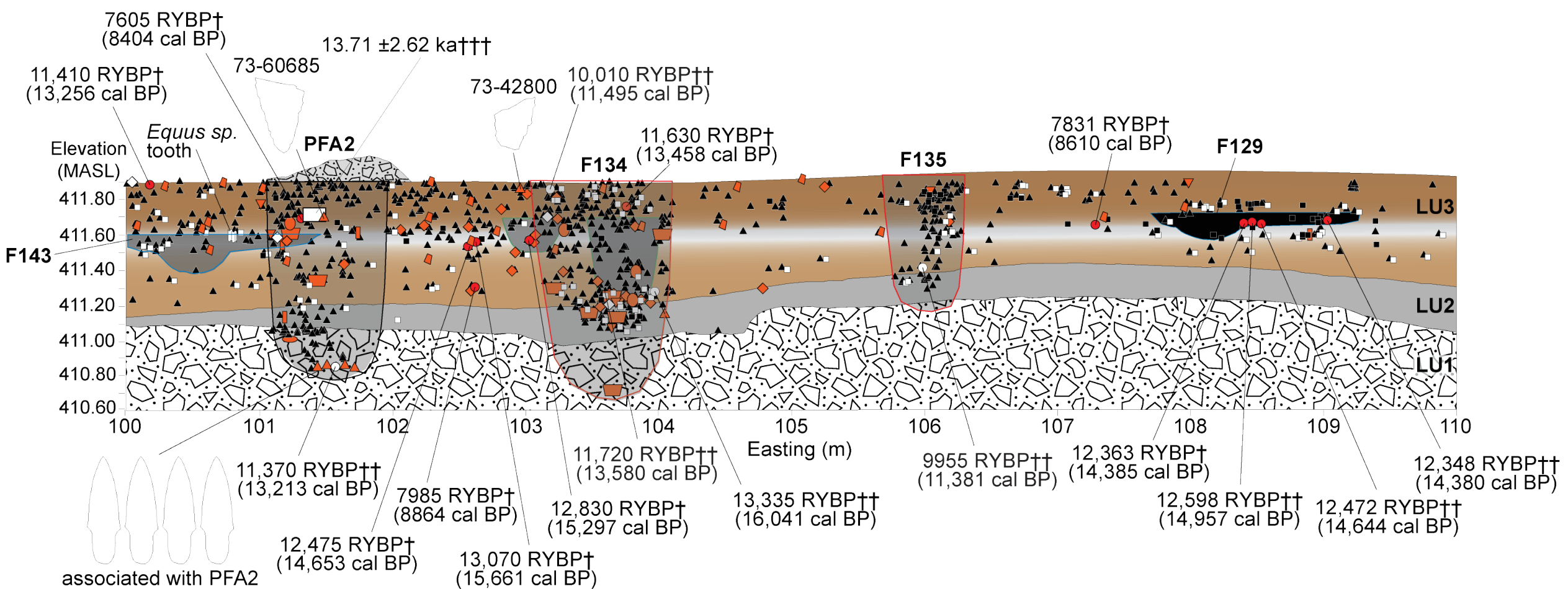




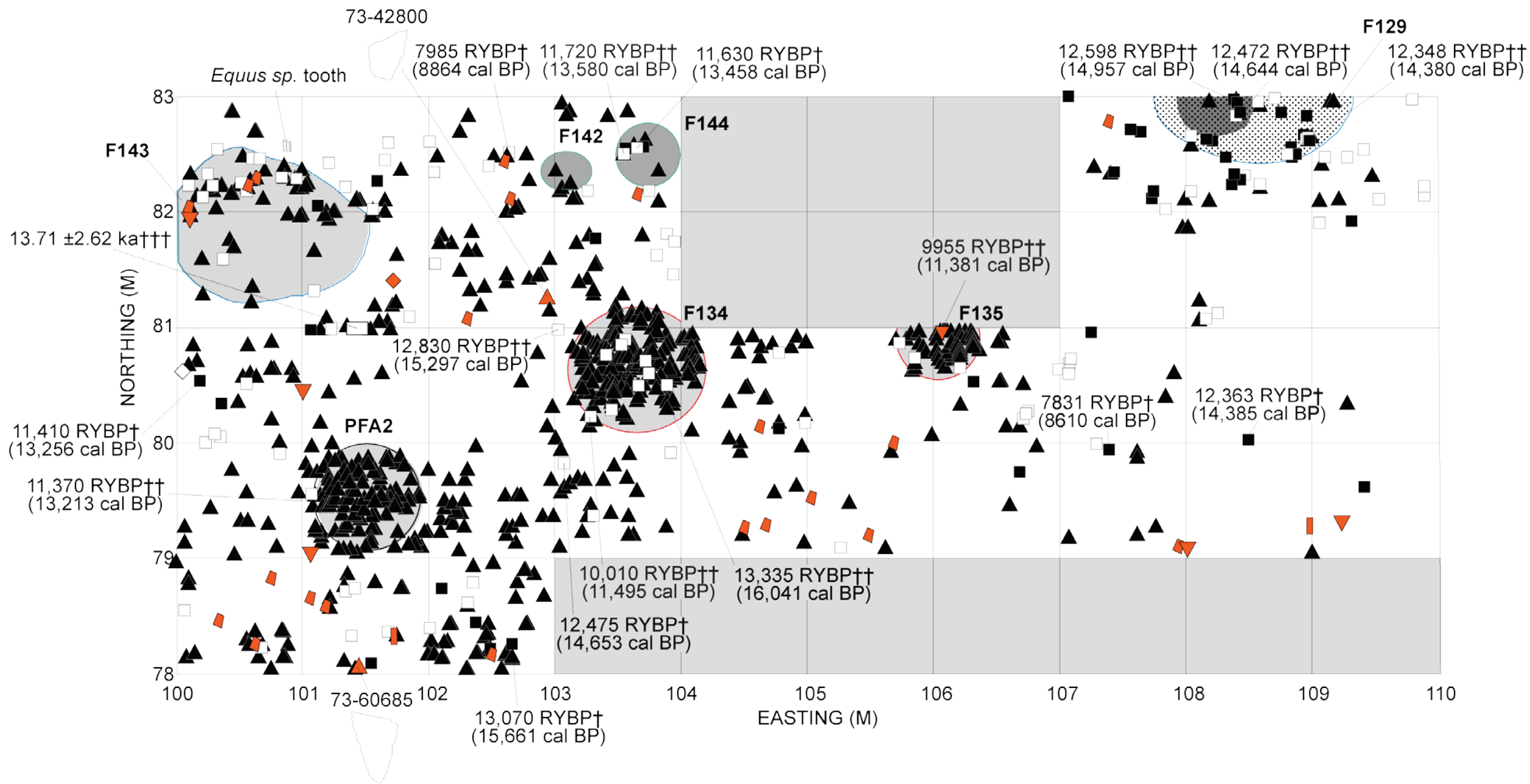












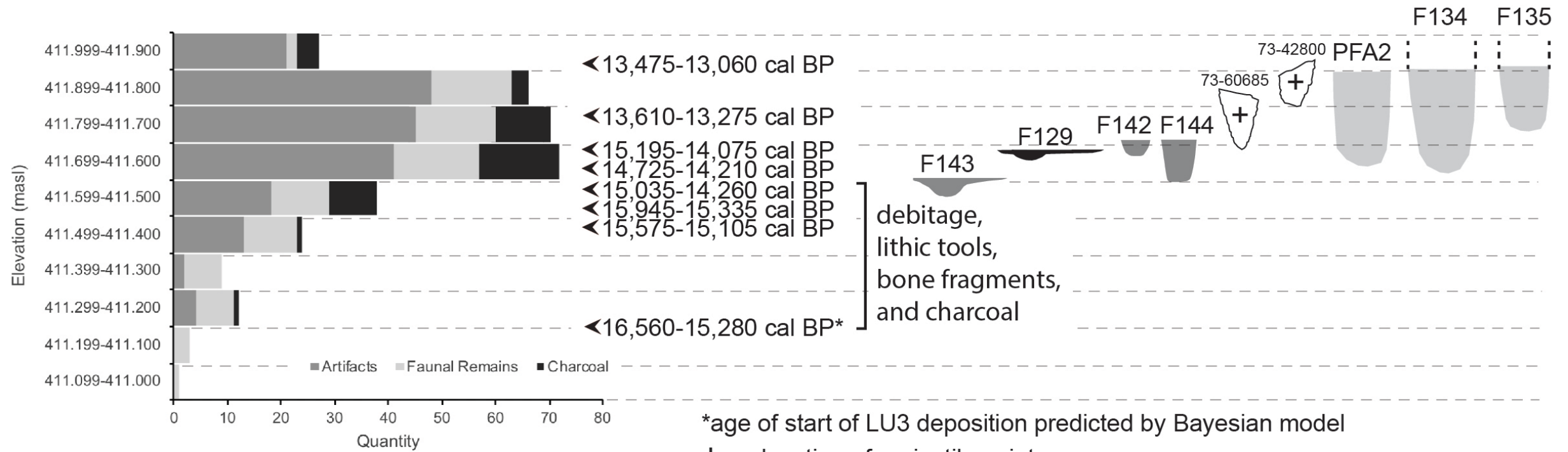
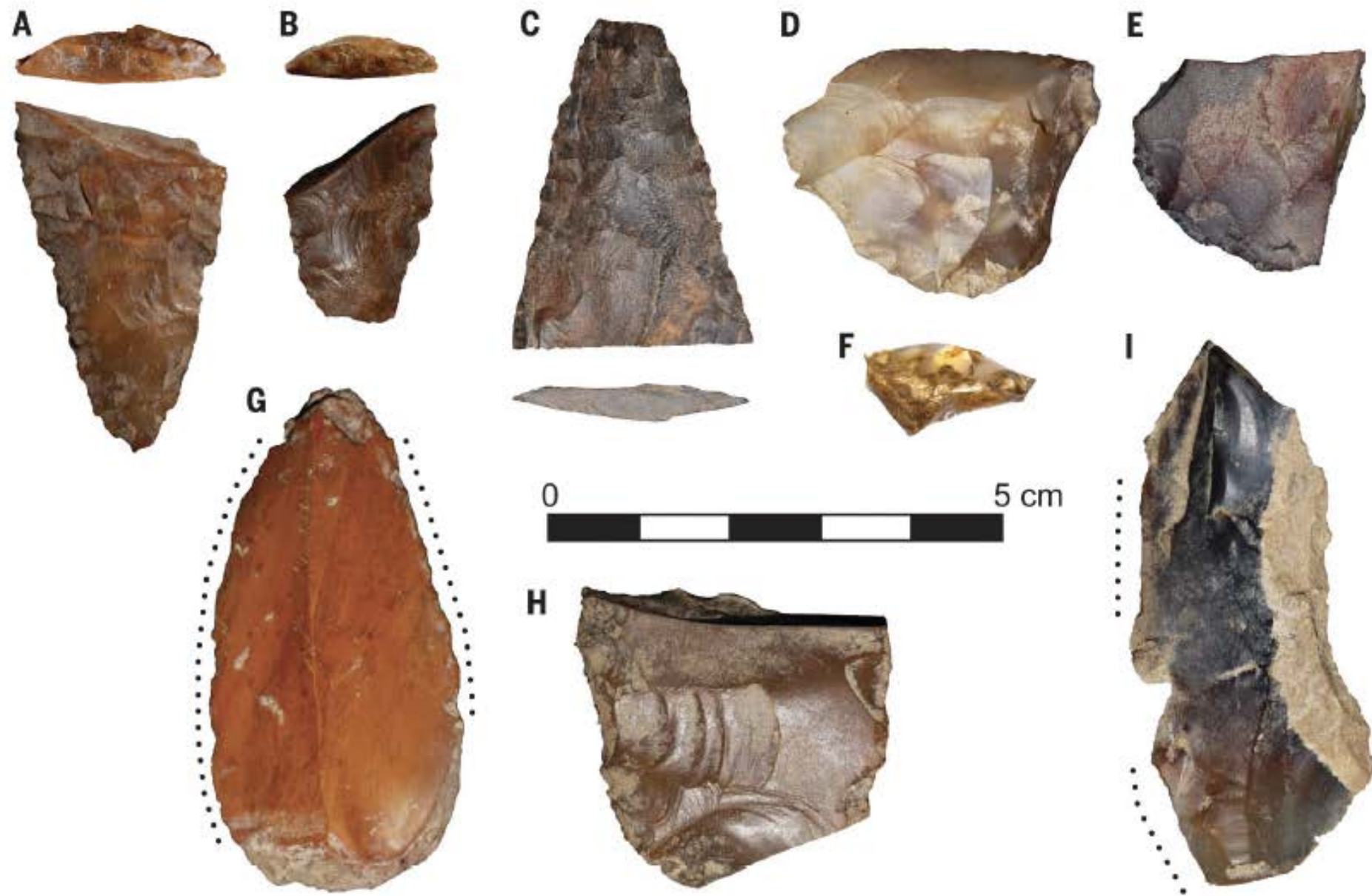
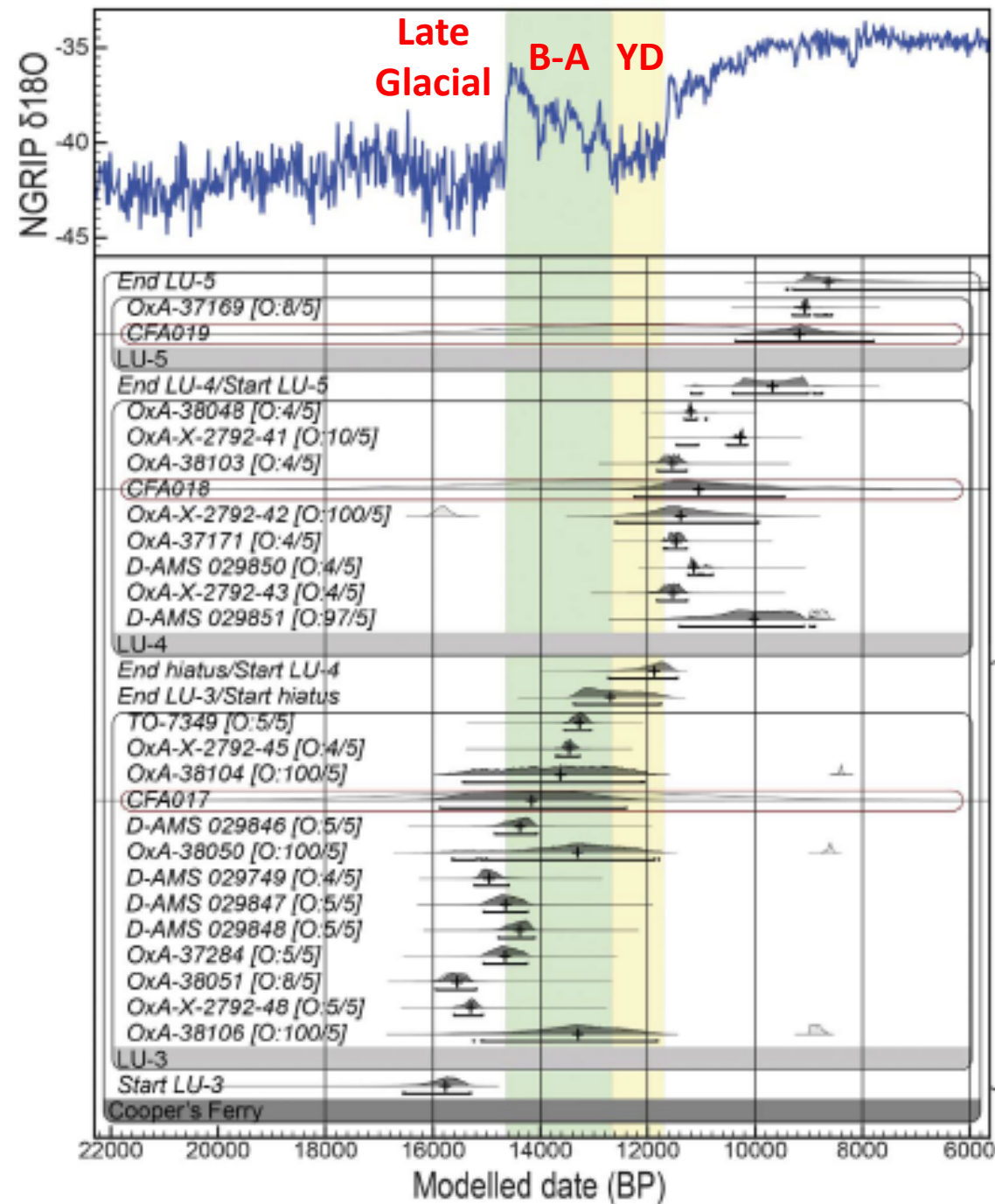


Fig. 4. Lithic tools excavated in situ from LU3. (A) Stemmed projectile point haft fragment from LU3 (73-60685; RN 56938). (B) Stemmed projectile point haft fragment from LU3 (73-42800; RN 50948). (C) Blade fragment of projectile point from LU3 (73-62464; RN 59067). (D) Biface preform fragment (73-61085; RN 57401). (E) Biface preform fragment (73-63034; RN 59076). (F) Biface preform fragment (73-61870; RN 58316). (G) Macroblade (73-62953; RN 59385). (H) Biface preform fragment (73-62887; RN 59367). (I) Macroblade (73-60855; RN 57072). Dots show areas with use wear.





LU6

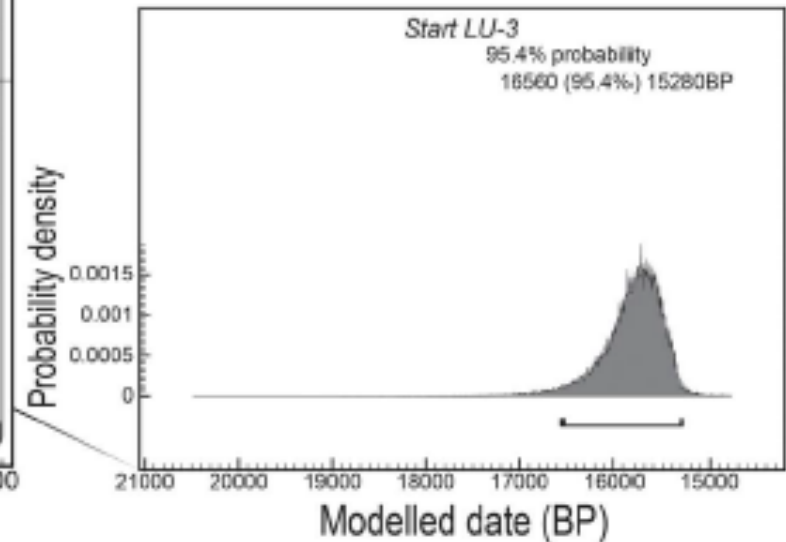
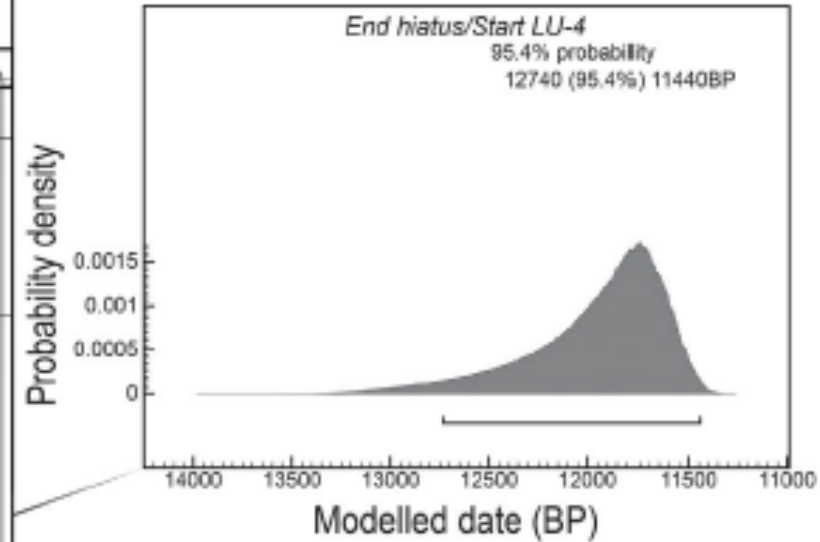
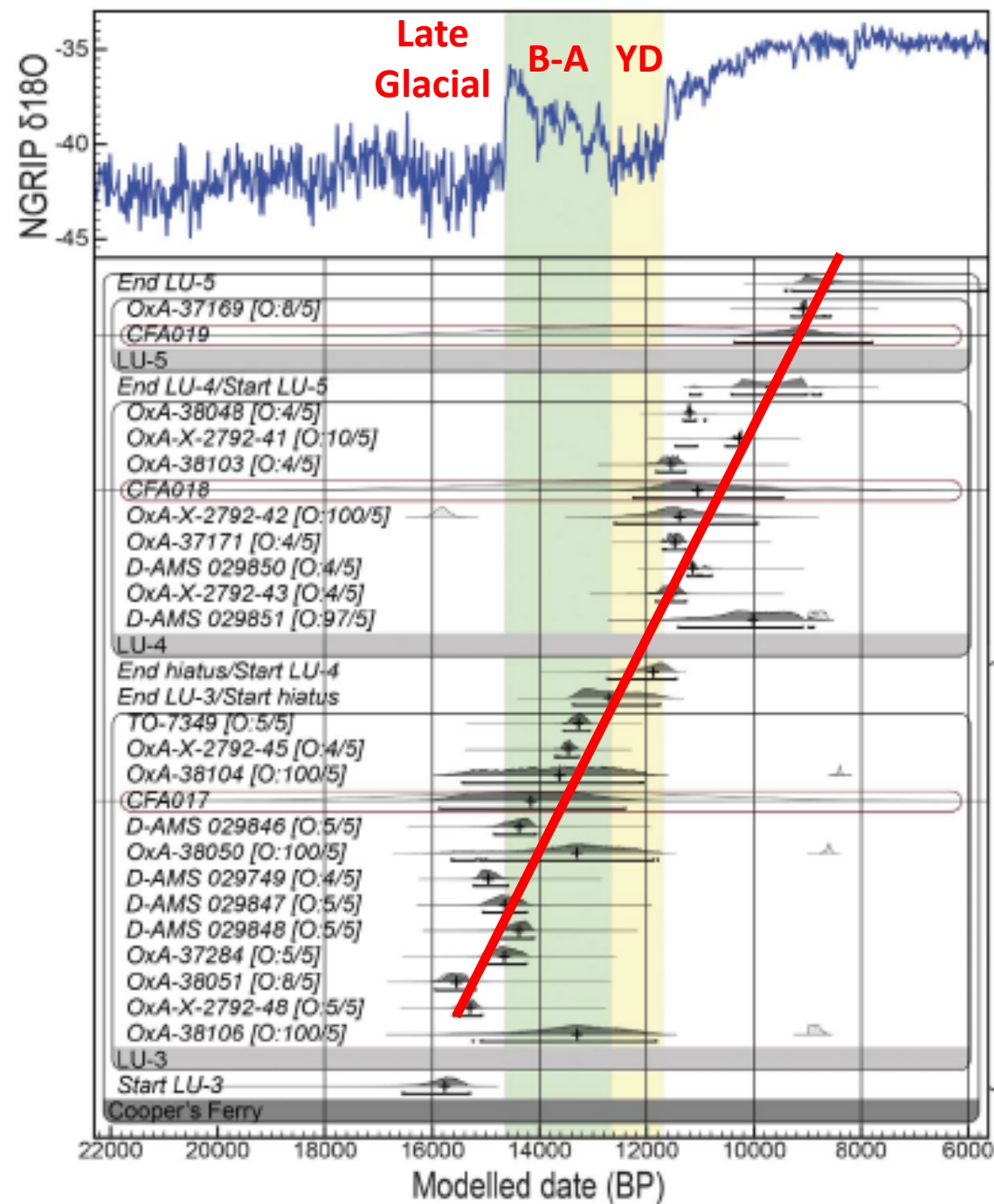
LU5

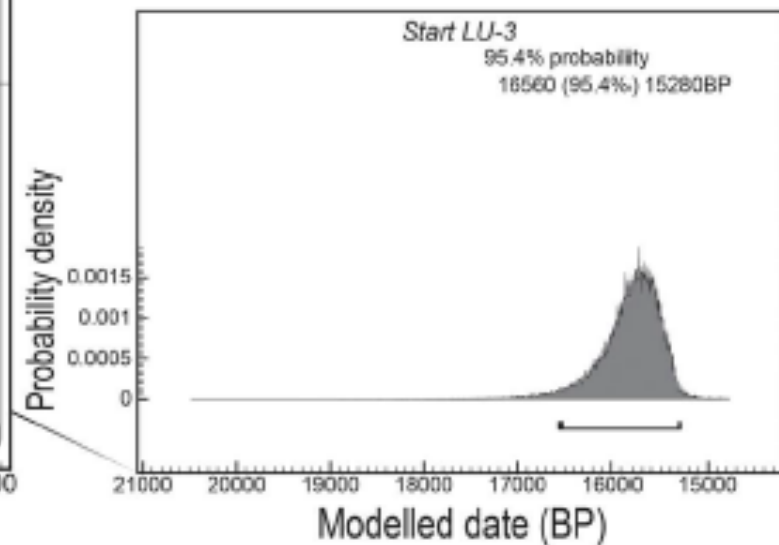
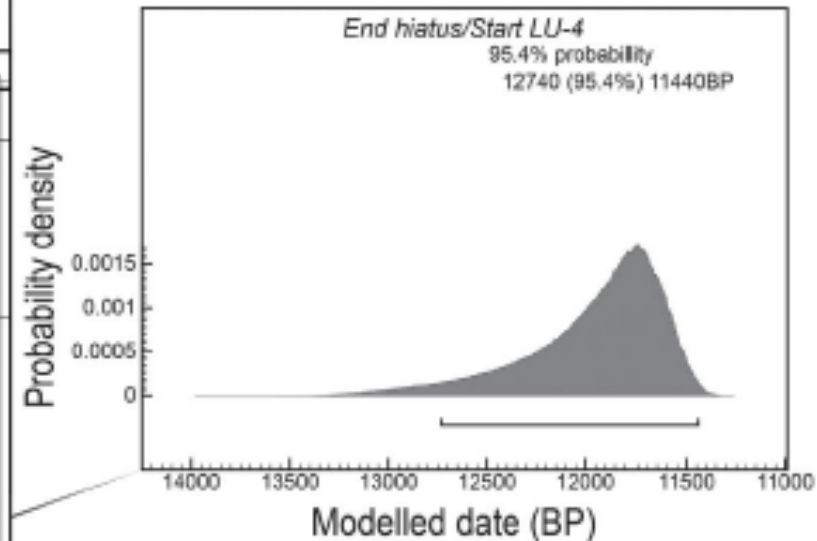
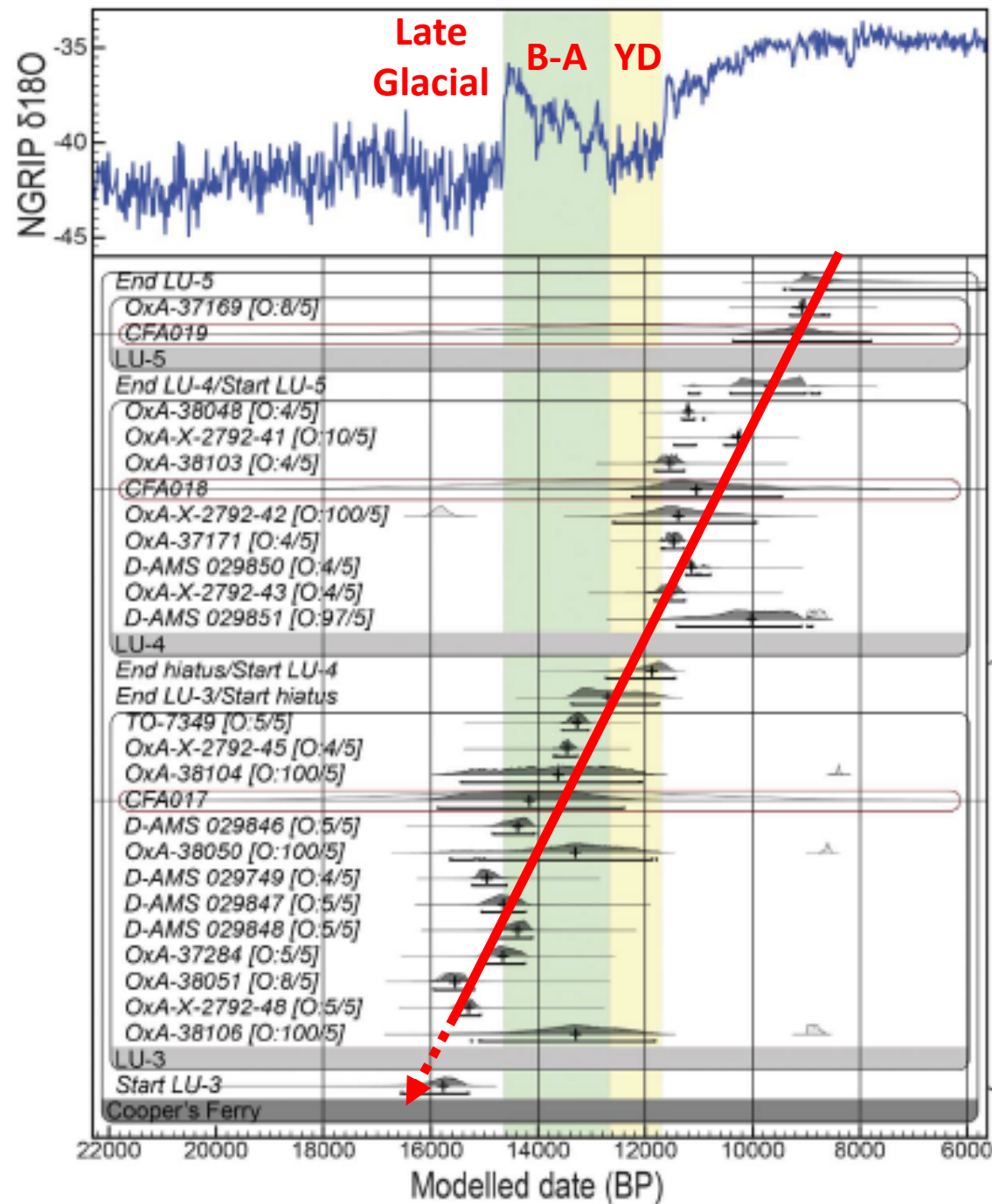
LU4

LU3

LU2

LU1







Fill

LU8

iron enriched LU6

LU6

this is dried

unaltered LU6

LU5

this is dried

LU4

rubified weak A horizon

calcic B horizon

LU3

loess parent material C horizon

Rock Cree
Paleosol

LU2

LU1

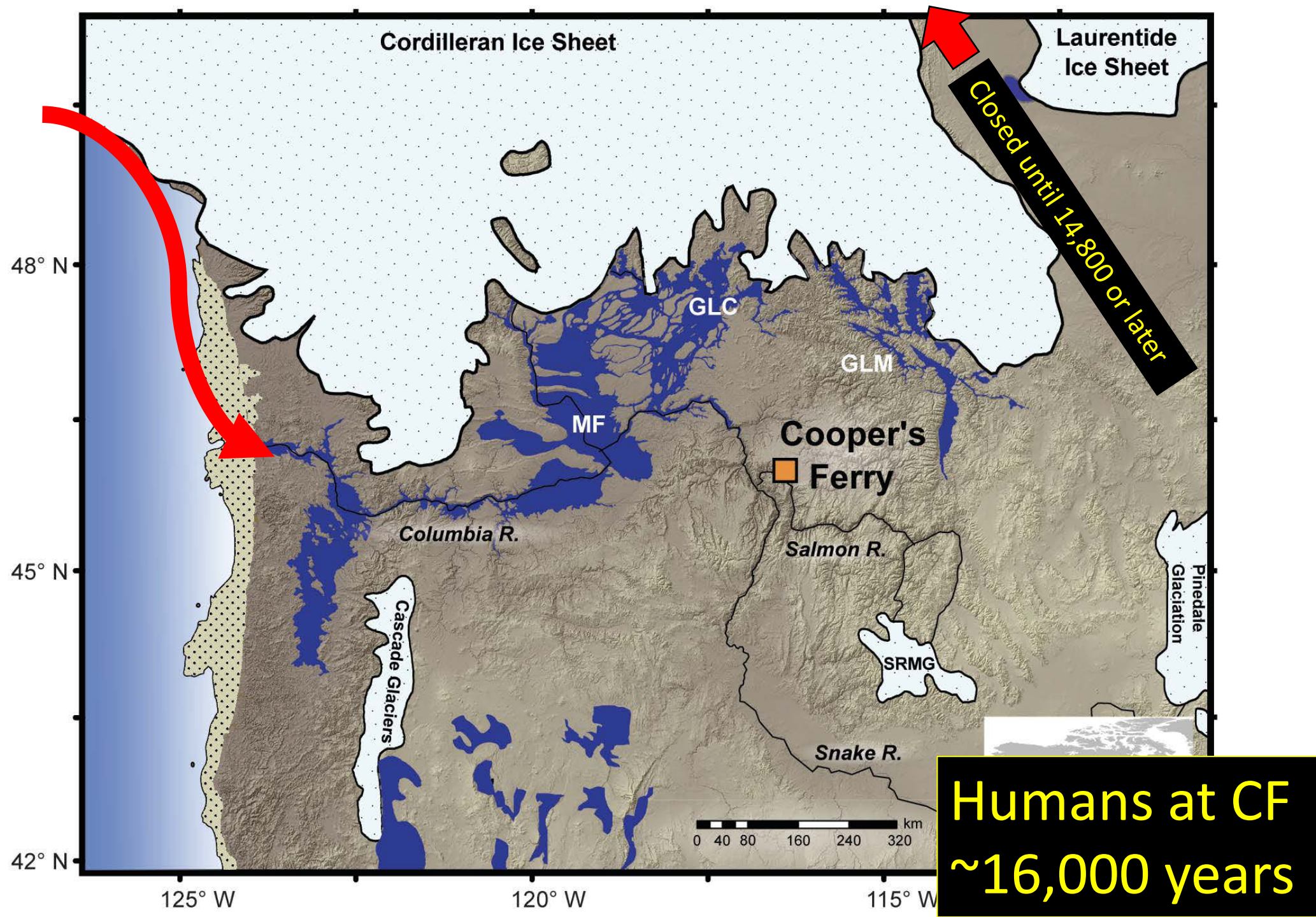
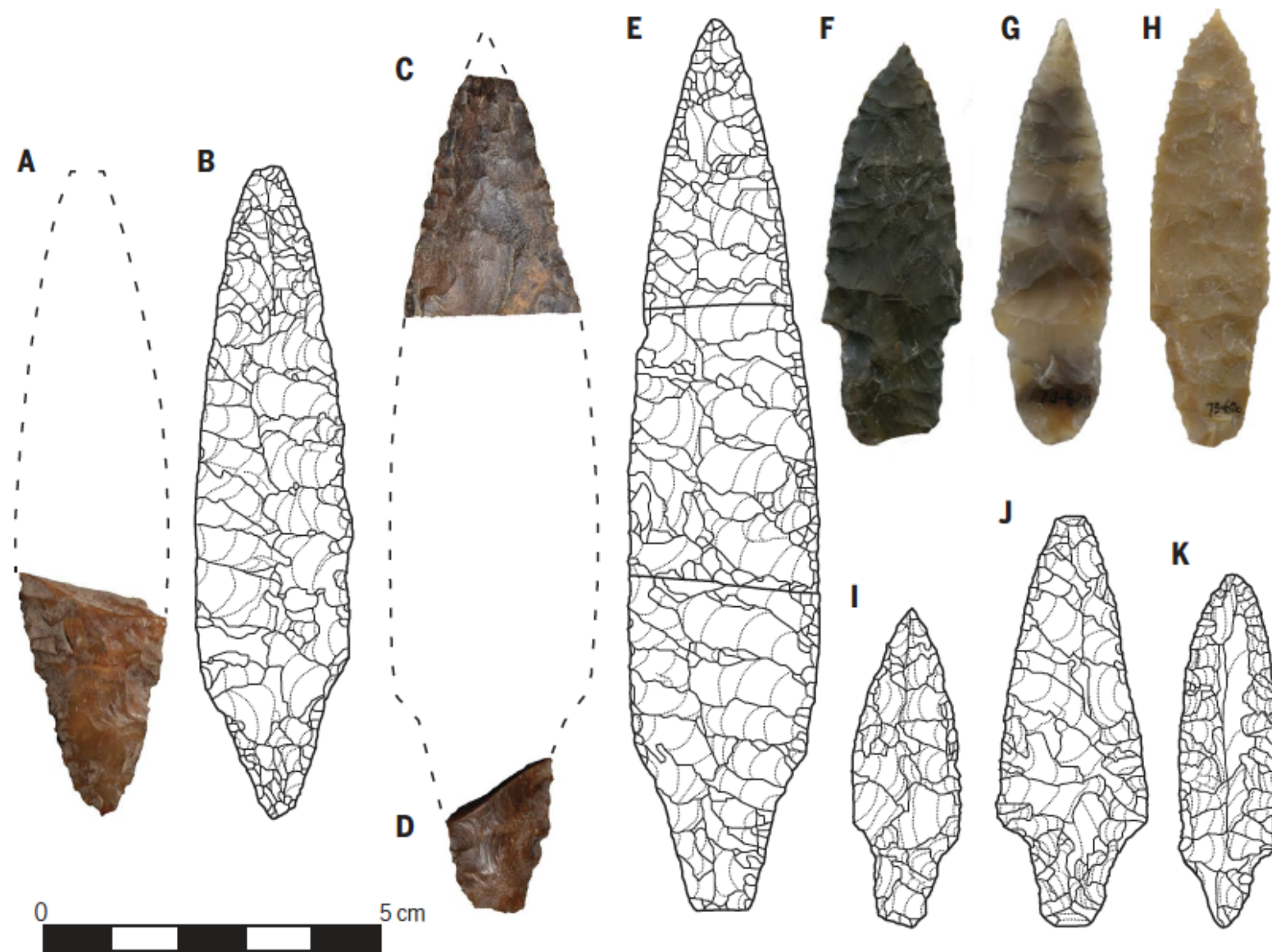


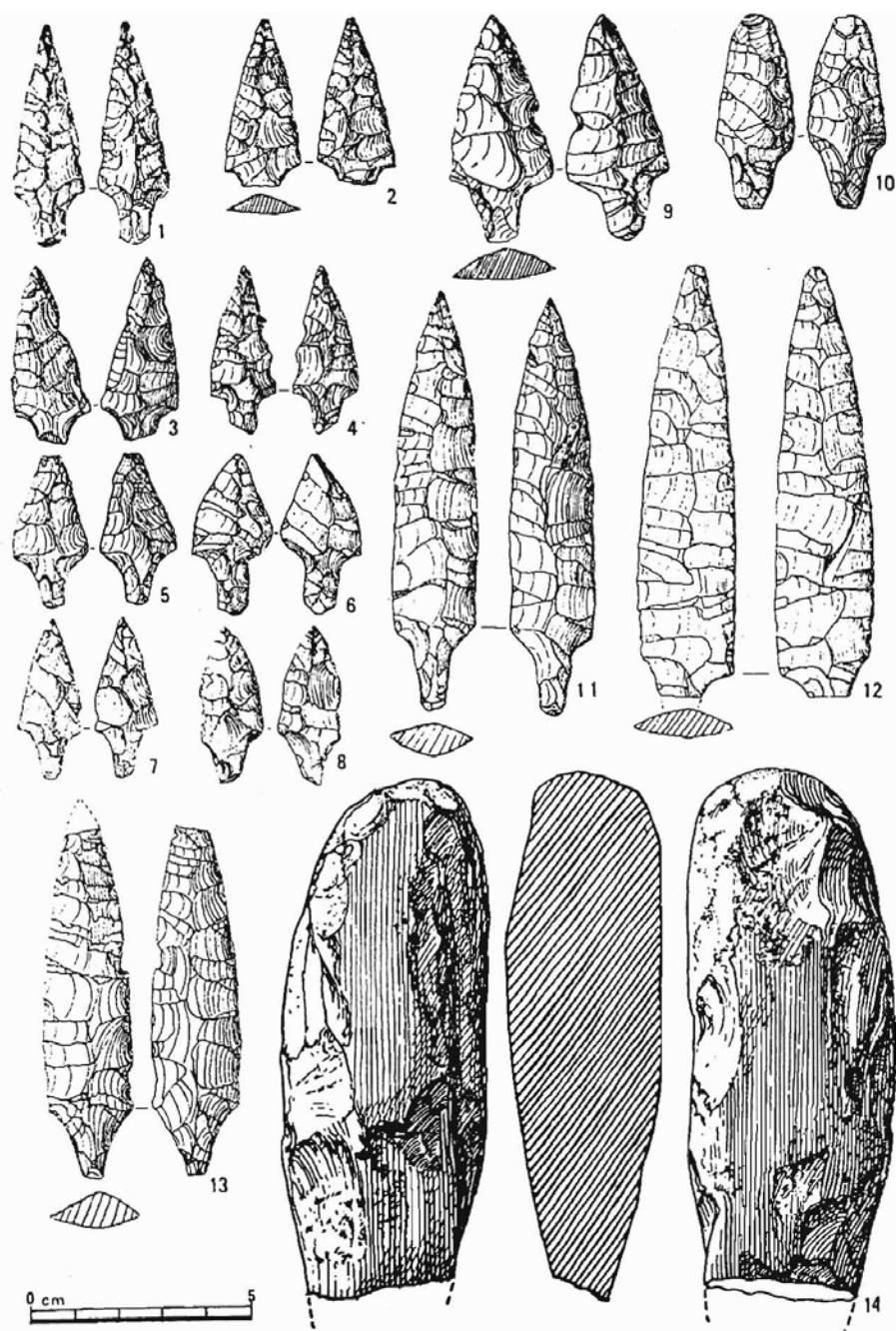
Fig. 5. Comparison of Cooper's Ferry projectile points with late Pleistocene age Tachikawa-type stemmed points from the Kamishirataki 2 site on Hokkaido, Japan.

(A) Stemmed projectile point haft fragment from LU3 (73-60685; RN 56938). **(B)** Illustration of Japanese Upper Paleolithic stemmed projectile point from the Kamishirataki 2 site [redrawn from (45)]. **(C)** Blade fragment of projectile point from LU3 (73-62464; RN 59067). **(D)** Stemmed projectile point haft fragment from LU3 (73-42800; RN 50948). **(E)** Illustration of Japanese Upper Paleolithic stemmed projectile point from the Kamishirataki 2 site [redrawn from (45)]

as one possible comparison for the reconstructed stemmed projectile point shown in (C) and (D). **(F)** Stemmed projectile point from PFA2 (73-627). **(G)** Stemmed projectile point from PFA2 (73-628). **(H)** Stemmed

projectile point from PFA2 (73-626). **(I to K)** Illustrations of Japanese Upper Paleolithic stemmed projectile points from the Kamishirataki 2 site [redrawn from (45)].





Tanged points and other artifacts excavated from the Tachikaru-shinai site, locality A, Hokkaido (after Yoshizaki).

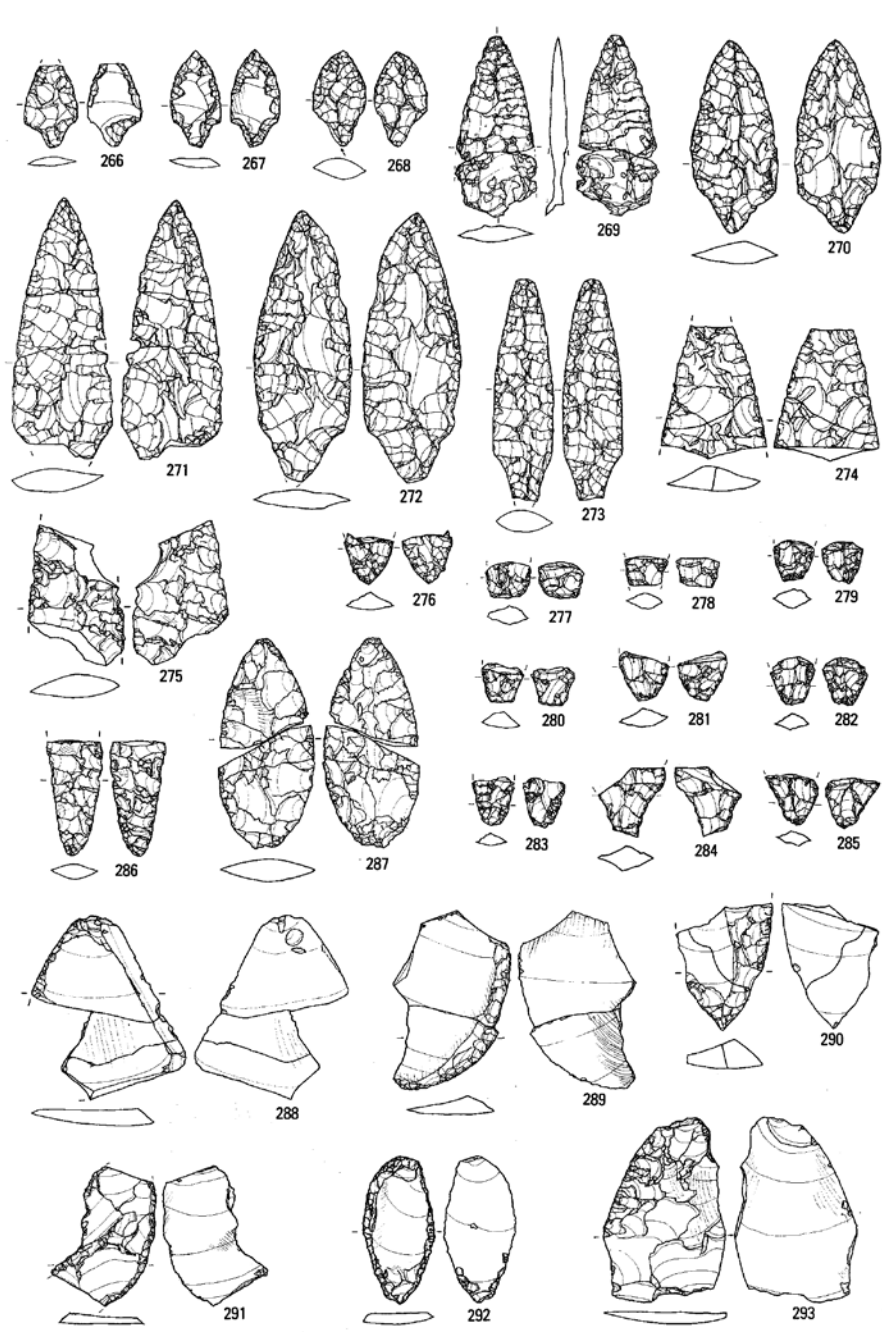


図60 スポット6 (1)



Kamishirataki

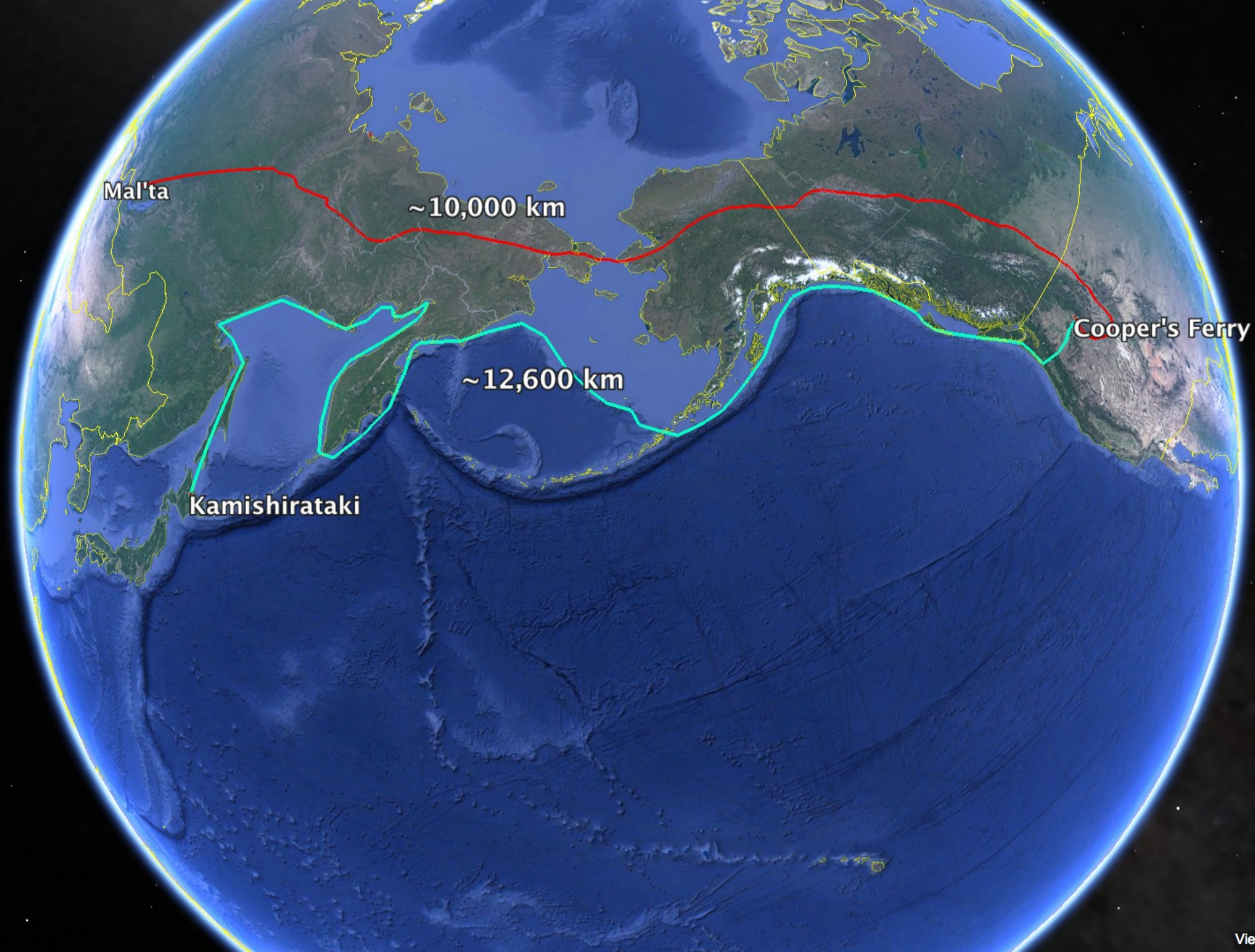
Cooper's Ferry

Google Earth

Image Landsat / Copernicus
US Dept of State Geographer
© 2018 Google
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO



View from Space (Altitude: 10225 km)

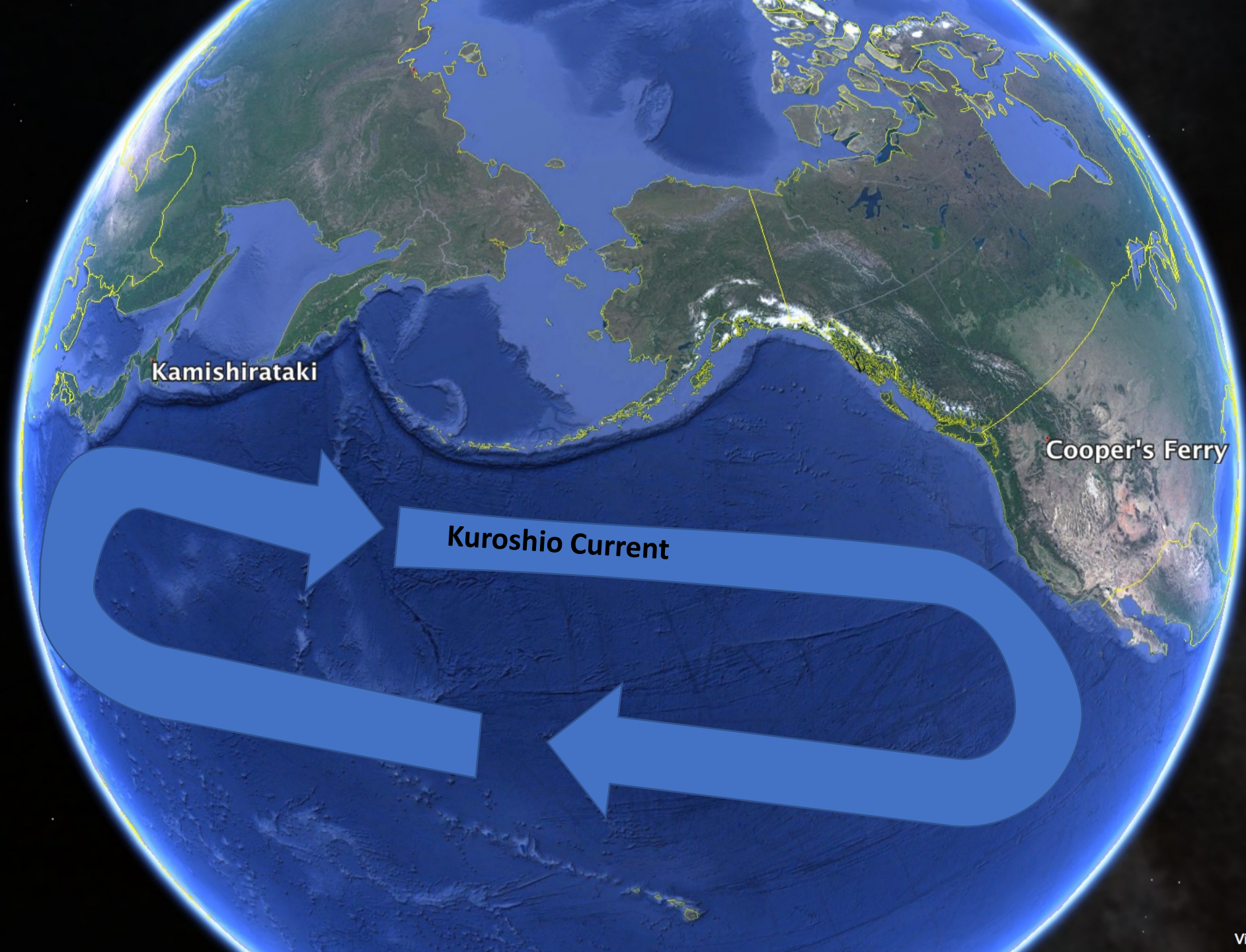


Google Earth

Image Landsat / Copernicus
US Dept. of State Geographer
© 2018 Google
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO



View from Space (Altitude: 10225 km)



Google Earth

Image Landsat / Copernicus
US Dept of State Geographer
© 2018 Google
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO



View from Space (Altitude: 10225 km)



Kam

Cooper's Ferry

Google Earth

Image Landsat / Copernicus
US Dept of State Geographer
© 2018 Google
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO



View from Space (Altitude: 10225 km)

Key Points

- Native peoples of the Americas share genetic heritage with peoples of NE Asia

Key Points

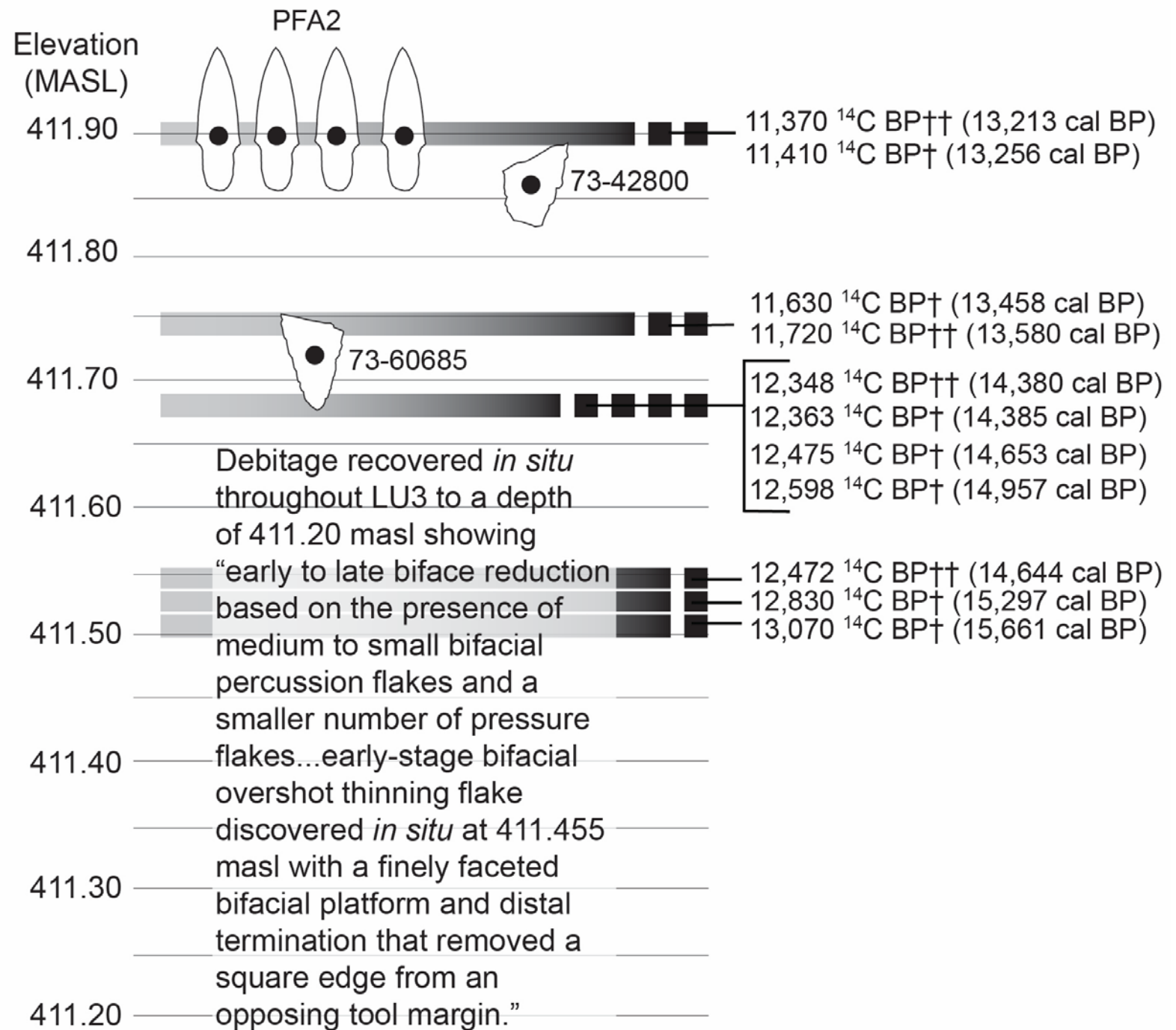
- Native peoples of the Americas share genetic heritage with peoples of NE Asia
- Archaeological excavations at Cooper's Ferry reveal repeated events of human occupation from ~16,560 - 13,200 cal BP

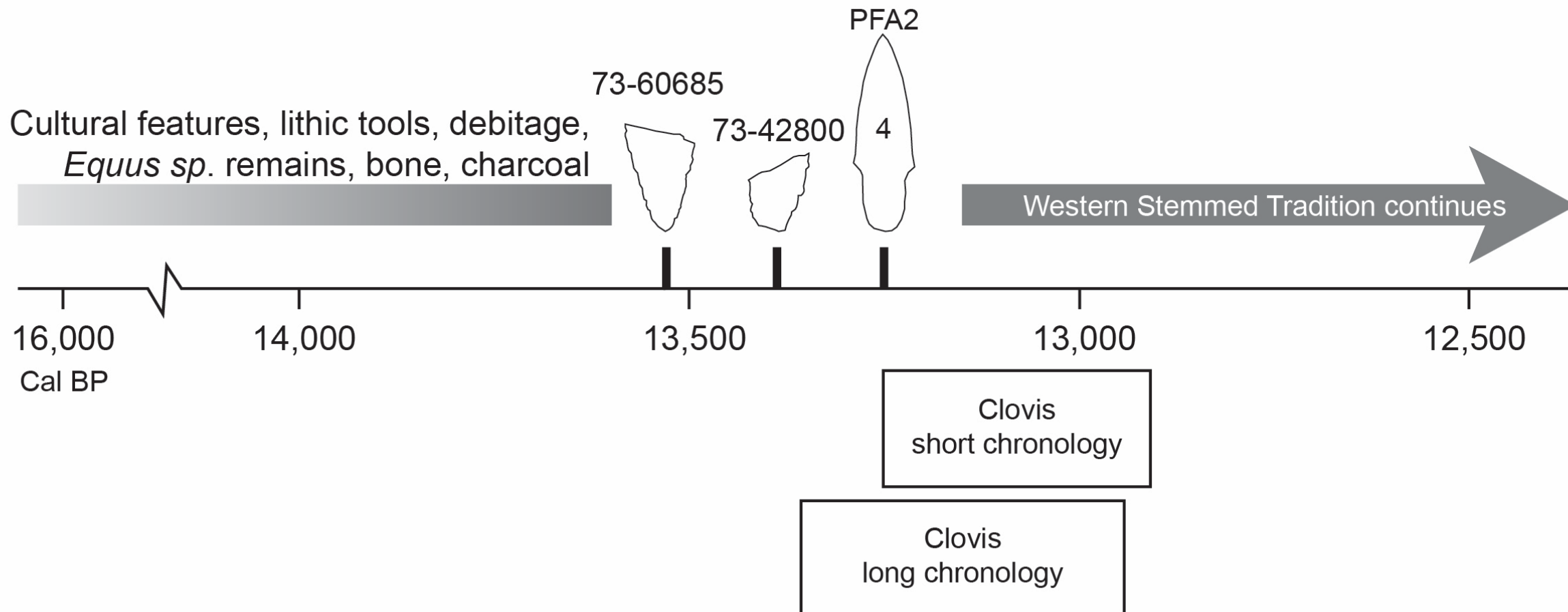
Key Points

- Native peoples of the Americas share genetic heritage with peoples of NE Asia
- Archaeological excavations at Cooper's Ferry reveal repeated events of human occupation from ~16,560 - 13,200 cal BP
- Evidence of Pleistocene horse hunting

Key Points

- Native peoples of the Americas share genetic heritage with peoples of NE Asia
- Archaeological excavations at Cooper's Ferry reveal repeated events of human occupation from ~16,560 - 13,200 cal BP
- Evidence of Pleistocene horse hunting
- Stemmed projectile points predate Clovis fluted points





Key Points

- Native peoples of the Americas share genetic heritage with peoples of NE Asia
- Archaeological excavations at Cooper's Ferry reveal repeated events of human occupation from ~16,560 - 13,200 cal BP
- Evidence of Pleistocene horse hunting
- Stemmed projectile points predate Clovis fluted points
- Site demonstrates that humans were south of continental ice sheets before opening of the Ice Free Corridor ($\leq 14,800$ cal BP)

Key Points

- Native peoples of the Americas share genetic heritage with peoples of NE Asia
- Archaeological excavations at Cooper's Ferry reveal repeated events of human occupation from ~16,560 - 13,200 cal BP
- Evidence of Pleistocene horse hunting
- Stemmed projectile points predate Clovis fluted points
- Site demonstrates that humans were south of continental ice sheets before opening of the Ice Free Corridor ($\leq 14,800$ cal BP)
- Conclude that humans migrated into the Americas via a Pacific coastal route

Key Points

- Native peoples of the Americas share genetic heritage with peoples of NE Asia
- Archaeological excavations at Cooper's Ferry reveal repeated events of human occupation from ~16,560 - 13,200 cal BP
- Evidence of Pleistocene horse hunting
- Stemmed projectile points predate Clovis fluted points
- Site demonstrates that humans were south of continental ice sheets before opening of the Ice Free Corridor ($\leq 14,800$ cal BP)
- Conclude that humans migrated into the Americas via a Pacific coastal route
- To find more of this early evidence, we must figure out where DORA exists in modern landscapes; CF is deeply buried and other sites might be too

Research Support



- **Bernice Peltier Huber Charitable Trust**
- **Keystone Archaeological Research Fund**
- **National Science Foundation**
- **National Geographic Society**
- **OSU Archaeology Field School Students and Staff 2009-2018**